THE TRAVANCORE SRI MULAM ASSEMBLY.

THIRD ASSEMBLY.

FIRST SESSION—1944/1120.

Thursday the 17th August 1944 | 2nd Chingom 1120.

The Assembly met in the Legislative Chamber at 12 noon with Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, K. C. S. I., K. C. I. E., LL. D., Dewan-President, in the Chair.

NEW MEMBERS.

The following members took the oath and signed the Rolls:—

1. Mr. K G. Kunjukrishna Pillai (*Legal Remembrancer to Government*).
2. Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar (*Additional Secretary to Government and Director of Food Supplies.*)
3. Mr. S. Narayana Aiyar (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*).
4. Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai (*Chief Secretary to Government*).
5. Mr. L. Sankaranarayana Pillai (*State Rationing and Food Purchase Officer.*)

MESSAGES.

PRESIDENT: Under standing order No. 60, I have to make certain communications on behalf of Government to this honourable House. The first of those communications is that of a message from His Highness the Maharaja which we shall receive standing.

"I beg to inform you that I have laid before His Highness the Maharaja the motion of condolence, passed at the Joint Session of the Sri Chitra State Council and the Sri Mulam Assembly at 12 noon on Monday, the 14th August in connection with the demise of His Highness the late First Prince Avittam Tirunal, and I am commanded by His Highness to convey to the Travancore Legislature, through you, His Highness's sincere thanks on behalf of himself and the members of the Royal family."

The second is a communication that Government have approved the election of Rajyasevanirata S. Chattanatha Karayalar as the Deputy President.

The third, is a communication which has reference to a number of questions that may or can be asked and resolutions that can be moved. It has been decided by the Government of India that on account of the present war situation information regarding certain matters, information relating to certain banking accounts, cannot be

[President.]

made available to the public. The rule that has been passed by the Government of India is as follows:—

"Restriction of publication of information relating to certain undertakings:

(1) This rule applies to any of the following undertakings carried on in India by any person or authority whatsoever (including Government).

(i) Undertakings for the supply of electricity,

(ii) Inland water transport undertakings,

(iii) Port, harbour dock or pier undertakings.

(2) No person shall publish, or cause or allow to be published in Travancore the accounts, or any copy thereof or extract therefrom, of any undertaking to which this rule applies, or any report or other document or any copy thereof or extract therefrom, relating to the operation of the undertaking which discloses any information contained in any such accounts or any statistical or other information relating to the progress of the undertaking.

(3) Nothing in sub-rule (2) shall, unless the Government by general or special order otherwise directs, be deemed:

(a) to relieve any person carrying on an undertaking to which this rule applies from any obligation to furnish to Government or to any Government authority such accounts, reports or documents, or copies thereof, or extracts therefrom;

(b) to prohibit the publication of such accounts, reports or documents or copies thereof or extracts therefrom to:—

(i) Government (ii) any Government or local authority (iii) the members of a local authority where the undertaking is carried on by the local authority, (iv) the directors or managing agents of a company where the undertaking is carried on by the company, (v) the auditors of the accounts of the undertaking, (vi) such other persons, or in such circumstances, as may be authorised by the Government;

(c) to apply to the publication by or on behalf of any person carrying on an inland water transport undertaking of any time table relating to such undertaking;

(d) to prohibit inspection of such accounts, reports or documents, or copies thereof, or extracts therefrom, at the offices of the undertaking by any person who but for this rule would have been entitled to obtain, receive or inspect such accounts, reports or documents, or to receive information as to the contents thereof, and who shall have given to the undertaking not less than 7 days' prior notice in writing of his desire to inspect the same.

(4) Where publication is made under the provisions of sub-rule (3) to the members of a local authority or to the directors or managing agents of a company, such publication shall only be made if the accounts, reports or documents are clearly marked with a statement that they are confidential and not to be published to any person other than another member of the local authority or another director or a member of the managing agents of the company, as the case may be."

This arises in two ways. A certain number of documents has been placed at the disposal of the honourable members although they are confidential and come within the purview of this notification. That is done because Government have thought it right to take the Legislature completely into confidence. The Government of India have enacted this rule and they have asked this Government to enact it here also. That was only two weeks back. Following the exampl

of the Government of England they are trying to keep the information away from those who may make use of it to their disadvantage at this juncture. That point should be borne in mind by honourable members in relation to their questions and resolutions.

There is another matter in respect of which I wish to make a communication to the honourable House. This communication arises out of a certain number of questions that are on the order paper to-day and a number of other questions that have been given notice of and which may have to be dealt with. I have thought it right to express the views of the Government publicly before the House, in order that the blame, if any, should rest upon the Government themselves who are responsible for the policy and not upon subordinate officers of the Government. It was the idea of the Government that if that policy has to be criticised the Government have to be criticised and I therefore make the statement. These allegations relate to elections and deal with alleged interference with the recent elections to the Legislature. In regard to that matter Government have already published their instructions prohibiting the interference directly or indirectly by Government officers. But there are one or two points that have to be made perfectly clear. The Government of Travancore came to the conclusion and have not departed from that conclusion that the disturbances that took place in the years 1939, 1940 and 1941 were largely due to the propaganda carried on by the Travancore State Congress. The Travancore State Congress was regarded as to no small extent responsible for those acts of violence, arson and disturbances. They have beyond generally denying their participation in violence and relying upon Mahatma Gandhi's doctrine of non-violence, not taken any other steps to repudiate their responsibility. Let it be understood that in the remarks that I am making I am confining them solely and exclusively to the Travancore State Congress. I am not making any observations on the policy of the Indian National Congress or on the leadership of any of the protagonists of that Congress. Suffice it to say that Mahatma Gandhi has himself recently given a striking example of what he means by his doctrine of non-violence. When he was detained in 1942 there was an impression in some quarters that there was no violence which was participated in by any member of the Indian National Congress. After he came out of detention he realised that men belonging to or calling themselves members of the Indian National Congress were guilty of violence and sabotage. Realising that, he asked those people who had gone underground directly to give themselves up for imprisonment and confess their guilt. Therefore any remarks that I have to make have no reference to the policy of the Indian National Congress. The Travancore Government, there is no doubt are still of the impression that the Travancore State Congress under its present leadership is trying to ally itself with the students movement and labour movement for the purpose of subversive activities. Feeling like that the Government have not made a secret of their opinion regarding the State Congress activities. But side by side with that opinion they made it clear that if and so far

[President.]

as there is a body of opinion in the country representd by the Travancore State Congress that body of opinion should be represented on the floor of this House. The Government took great care to see that both these aspects should be made perfectly clear to the public and to the officers. I wanted to make it clear because if as is quite possible, more than probable, honourable members wish to attack Government for that policy or for that conviction, and want to persuade Government that they are wrong the right and proper target of attack is the Government and not the subordinate officers.

RAJYASEVANIRATA S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pathanapuram cum Shencotta*): Sir, with your kind permission I wish to speak a few words. You have just now announced the approval of Government of my election as Deputy President of this House. I am deeply sensible of the honour done to me by the House by electing me as its Deputy-President. I am extremely thankful to the honourable members of this House for the honour. Sir, I have had the inestimable advantage of working as Deputy- President for over six years under your inspiration and guidance, and I wish to acknowledge my deep indebtedness to you for the in-valuable assistance I have received at your hands which has been of the utmost value to me in the discharge of my duties in the past. I am sure that this has been fully recognised by the House in the election of myself as its Deputy President for the second time.

Let me take this opportunity to give my assurance to this House that it will be my constant endeavour to uphold the dignity of the office to which I have been elected and to maintain the best traditions of the House and in this endeavour of mine, I trust I shall have the full and willing co-operation of all sections of the House.

Before concluding, let me tell the House that it is not my intention to appropriate to myself the salary I shall be drawing as Deputy-President. I propose to give it away for a public purpose, a public charity. The cause of the poor has always been very dear to my heart and I have therefore, decided to give away my salary to the Vanchi Poor Fund whose work has impressed me very deeply in the past. I thank all the honourable members of the House.

PRESIDENT: I am sure the honourable House will reciprocate the sentiments expressed by the honourable member.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Agricultural farm near Perurkada.

1. * **MR. K. A. MATHEW** (*Tiruvalla*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to open an agricultural farm near Perurkada in Chettivilakam pakuthi, Trivandrum taluk;

(b) what is the kind of farm that is proposed — experimental, demonstration or any other kind;

(c) what are the crops that are proposed to be cultivated there;

(*d*) the survey number and extent of the land proposed to be acquired;

(*e*) whether it has been taken possession of and whether possession was taken under the urgency clause of the Land Acquisition Act;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that a large part of the area proposed to be acquired forms a high precipitous tapering hill;

(*g*) the height of the hill;

(*h*) whether it is a fact that water is not available on that hill for cultivation purposes;

(*i*) the present condition of the agricultural farm at Neeramankara near Karamanai, the cattle farm at Perurkada and the silk farm near Nedumangad, the purposes to which these farms are now put and whether any of these lands cannot be used for the present purpose;

(*j*) whether it is on the recommendation of the Agricultural department that the site now being acquired has been selected; and

(*k*) the name of the owner of the site acquired?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) It is intended for agricultural and anti-erosion research schemes.

(*c*) Fruit trees and food crops.

(*d*) Survey Numbers 1342/9 and 10 A B of Chettivilakom pakuthy—20 acres and 71 cents.

(*e*) The land has been taken possession of after the acquisition proceedings were completed. It was not acquired under the urgency clause of the Land Acquisition Act.

(*f*) No.

(*g*) About 30 to 40 feet from the adjoining road level to the top portion of the land.

(*h*) No.

(*i*) There is no agricultural farm at Neeramankara near Karamana.

The Cattle Farm at Perurkada is widely recognised as one of the model Dairy Farms of India.

Silk Farm near Nedumangad—Mulberry plants are grown in this farm and the plants are in good condition.

These lands cannot be used for the present purpose.

(*j*) Yes; this site was acquired in consultation with the Director of Agriculture; and in view of the fact that the land was being brought to sale for non-payment of long-standing Government dues which remained unpaid from 1107 and was about to be alienated by the owner who had already mortgaged it.

(*k*) Mr. P. S. Nataraja Pillai.

Election of Mr. Nataraja Pillai as Mayor.

2. ***MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Neyyattinkara cum Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there was a requisition from the City Corporation Council to publish the election of Mr. Nataraja Pillai as Mayor;

(b) whether the publication was made in accordance with that;

(c) if not, why not;

(d) did the Commissioner of the City Corporation address the Government direct regarding the legality or otherwise of the election of Mr. Nataraja Pillai; and

(e) is he under law permitted to address the Government except through the Mayor?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: (a) There was a communication to Government regard ing the result of the election and requesting its publication.

(b) No.

(c) Because Government were advised that the election was invalid on account of material irregularities.

(d) No.

(e) This is a matter of legal construction.

Kottarakara-Alwaye Railway Line.

3. *MR. CHAZHIKKATTU JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Todupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the date on which the survey of Kottarakara-Alwaye railway line was begun and completed as also the total amount spent for that purpose?

MR. S. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): There was no survey of a Kottarakara-Alwaye Railway line.

Railway connecting Kottarakara with Ernakulam.

4. *MR. K. R. NARAYANAN (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they had any idea of connecting Ernakulam and Kottarakara by railway;

(b) whether any expenses had been incurred thereon; and

(c) if so, the amount spent?

MR. S. NARAYANA AIYAR: (a) No.

(b) & (c) Do not arise in view of the answer to (a).

Railway Line from Quilon to Ernakulam.

5. *MR. C. K. SANKARA PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is the intention of the Government to begin immediately the construction of the Railway line from Quilon to Ernakulam;

(b) the cost of construction estimated during the completion of the survey of this line; and

(c) whether the estimate has been revised subsequently?

MR. S. NARAYANA AIYAR : (*a*) Government have no such intention.

(*b*) Bh. Rs. 1,84,76,407.

(*c*) No.

Officers on a salary of Rs. 300 and above.

6. ***MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kunnattur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of officers on a salary of Rs 300 or more at the end of 1111;

(*b*) the total annual expenditure on account of their salaries in 1111; and

(*c*) the number of such officers and the total annual expenditure on account of their salaries under the recent revision of salaries?

MR. S. NARAYANA AIYAR : (*a*) 200.

(*b*) Rs. 11,41,654.

(*c*) 145. Rs. 9,56,660.

Rationing of Sugar and Kerosene in Kunnattur.

7. ***MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the officer in charge of rationing of sugar and kerosene in Kunnattur taluk; and

(*b*) the nature of supervision exercised by superior officers of rationing of sugar and kerosene?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : (*a*) The Tahsildar, Kunnattur.

(*b*) The District Magistrates and the Sugar Controller enquire into and dispose of complaints received against the actions of Tahsildars in the distribution of kerosene and sugar respectively.

MR. K, K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI : May I know whether the superior officers take action *suo motu*, even without complaint?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : Superior officers go round and supervise.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI; Have they done it in Kunnattur taluk?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : They have done it.

Amount invested in food grains.

8. ***MR. XAVIER VINCENT** (*Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertalai*): Will the Government be pleased to state;

(*a*) the amount so far invested in getting down food grains and other articles of food imported by the Travancore Government;

(*b*) under what budget head that expenditure has been incurred in 1118 and 1119;

(*c*) whether that expenditure has been audited; and

(*d*) if so, whether they will lay on the table a report of the audit?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) Rs. 1313·62 lakhs (till the end of 11/1119).

(*b*) "Debt Head—III C. (a) V—Food stuff Advance".

(*c*) and (d) The expenditure is being audited by a Special Audit staff.

Transport of food grains.

9. ***MR. XAVIER VINCENT**: Will the Government be pleased to state what are the agencies transporting food grains and other articles of food purchased by Government to the various parts of the State from Cochin?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Government themselves are arranging the transport of foodgrains from Cochin to different parts.

Conveyance of foodgrains.

10. ***MR. XAVIER VINCENT**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of country boats commandeered so far, for the transportation of food grains;

(*b*) the number temporarily or permanently released so far;

(*c*) the number under the custody of the District Magistrate on Special Duty for the purpose; and

(*d*) the agencies employed in commandeering and releasing such boats?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) and (*b*) No definite number can be given as it varies at different times.

(*c*) 582 at present.

(*d*) The District Magistrate on Special Duty and the Executive Engineer, Kottayam. Release of vallums is carried out under the orders of the District Magistrate on Special Duty.

Amount invested for the purchase and sale of foodgrains.

11. ***MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil cum Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the amount invested by Government for the purchase and sale of food grains in 1117, 1118 and 1119;

(*b*) the budget heads from which this amount was drawn to finance this business;

(*c*) the result of the transactions in the purchase and sale of foodgrains in each of the years 1117, 1118 and 1119; and

(*d*) the amount of loss or profit in each of the years 1117 and 1118?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR:

(*a*)	*1117*	*1118*	*1119*
	Rs. 3·28 lakhs.	Rs. 886·02 lakhs	Rs. 924·32 lakhs

(*b*) "Debt Head-III C (*a*) V- Foodstuff Advance".

(*c*) The question is not clear.

(*d*) It is not possible to give the information at this stage.

Food grains got from outside Travancore.

12. *MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the quantity of rice and other food grains got down from outside Travancore during 1118 and 1119, till last month separately?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (a) The statement is furnished below:—

Name of grain.		*Quantity imported (in bags) in 1118 M. E.*	*in 1119 M. E.*
Rice	...	8,13,909	11,20,020
Wheat	...	1,31,619	10,11,200
Millets	...	1,04,808	2,15,985
Wheat Products	...	13,095	86,400
Gram and Gram Products	...	53,538	29,953
Maize and Mealie Samp	...	7,243	1,40,635
Other Grains	...	20,785	43,669
Barley	...	...	25,051

Paddy collected.

13. *MR. C. K. SANKARA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is the policy of the Government to conserve the paddy collected from a definite area within the State for distribution in that particular area and to transport only the excess quantity beyond that area?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes: to the extent possible.

Out of the paddy purchased in a taluk only the surplus after meeting the legitimate requirements of that taluk is transported from there.

MR. C. K. SANKARA PILLAI: With regard to the paddy that is collected from Nanjanad area, may I know where it is stored for the year 1119?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: In the various granaries in the area concerned.

Paddy taken and distributed in Minachil taluk.

14. *MR. P. S. GOPALA PILLAI (*Minachil cum Todupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity of paddy taken by the Government from Minachil during 1118 and 1119; and

(b) what is the quantity of paddy distributed in Minachil taluk during those years?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR:

		Paras.	Edangalies.
(a)	Year 1118	19,343	8¼
	Year 1119 (up to 14-12-1119)	55,929	3¾
(b)	Year 1118	16,172	4
	Year 1119 (up to 14-12-1119)	51,543	1½

Food problem.

15. *MR. P. M. VARGHESE* (*Minachil cum Todupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken to meet the food problem with the natural resources within the State itself?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: 1. Procurement, stocking and State-wide rationing of foodgrains and control of their prices etc.

2. Opening of Departmental Manure Depots and stocking manures for sale to ryots at cost price and on crop loan basis with a view to increasing crop yield.

3. Manufacture of compost manure with town refuse and night-soil and with leaf-mould obtained from Reserve Forest areas for augmenting the local production of manure.

4. Conversion of single crop paddy lands in North Travancore into double crop lands under the Lift Irrigation Scheme.

5. Leasing out of lands from the Forest Reserves for the cultivation of paddy.

6. Cultivation of Vegetables on water free areas in the irrigation tanks.

7. Conduct of cultural demonstrations on ryots' lands to illustrate the possibilities of augmenting grain yield by using better manures, better seeds and better implements.

8. Carrying on of vigorous propaganda by the Officers of the Agricultural Department for putting every bit of available land under some food crop or other.

Paddy purchase scheme.

16. *MR. CHAZHIKKATTU JOSEPH: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware that the major portion of the people of the taluks of Meenachil and Todupuzha subsist on paddy received from outside their taluks; and

(*b*) if so, whether they will exempt those people from the present paddy purchase scheme?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) Yes.
(*b*) *No.*

MR. CHAZHIKKATTU JOSEPH: മീനച്ചിൽ തൊടുപുഴ എന്നീ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ നിവസിക്കുന്ന ജനങ്ങൾക്കു അവരുടെ ആവശ്യത്തിലേക്കുള്ള നെല്ല് തികയുന്നില്ല എന്നു ഗവൺമെൻറിനു ബോദ്ധ്യമായിരിക്കെ അവരിൽനിന്നും നെല്ല് എടുക്കണമെന്നു ഗവൺമെൻറു വിചാരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: അങ്ങിനെ വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല.

MR. CHAZHIKKATTU JOSEPH : ഒരു കൊല്ലത്തിൽ മൂന്നു മാസത്തെ ആവശ്യത്തിനുപോലും നെല്ലു കിട്ടാത്ത ആളുകളുടെ പക്കൽനിന്നും നെല്ലെടുത്തിട്ടു അവർ റേഷൻ വാങ്ങിച്ചുകൊള്ളണമെന്നാണോ ഗവൺമെന്റിന്റെ ഉദ്ദേശം ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : അതെ.

PRESIDENT : Order, order. The honourable member shall take his seats. When the president is on his legs, the honourable members must be seated. Also when any honourable member on behalf of the Government is speaking, the other honourable members must be seated. When any of the other honourable members is speaking, the members of the Government will be seated.

Distribution of food materials.

17. ***MR. K. BALAKRISHNA MENON** (*Kunnatnad* cum *Parur*) : Will the Government be pleased to state whether complaint has been received from any person by any authority regarding the distribution of unwholesome food materials and if the answer is in the affirmative what measures have been taken by the Government in the matter?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : Yes; stringent instructions have been issued to the Depot Officers not to distribute materials which may have become unfit for human consumption.

MR. K. BALAKRISHNA MENON : May I know what punishment has been meted out to those persons who were at fault?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : They have been severely warned and given strict instructions that only what is fit for human consumption should be distributed.

Food Grains.

18. ***MR. S. SANKARANARAYANAN TAMPI** (*Karunagapalli* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the amount spent by Government in purchasing food grains; and

(*b*) the amount realised on sale of food grains ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : (*a*) Rs. 1313·62 lakhs (till the end of 11/1119.)

(*b*) Rs. 786·98 lakhs (till the end of 11/1119.)

Tiruvalla Taluk Food Advisory Committee.

19. ***MR. K. A. MATHEW :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the functions expected to be performed by the Tiruvalla Taluk Food Advisory Committee; and

(*b*) whether the members of the Committee are elected representatives from the Pakuthi Committees or are they nominated by the Government ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) The functions of the Taluk Committee are to collaborate with the Officials in the purchase of paddy, distribution of foodgrains and to furnish information regarding scarcity of foodgrains or mal-adjustments, if any, in particular localities and to render such assistance as is possible in the securing of excess stocks.

(*b*) No. They have been nominated by Government.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Would the Government think that it would be more useful to have non-officials on the Advisory committee?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: There are non-officials already on the Advisory Committee.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Why should they not be elected? Further, is there a proposal to elect members?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Not at present.

MR. C. K. SANKARA PILLAI: Would there be much expenditure if the procedure of election is resorted to?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes, there might be.

Purchase and sale of food grains.

20. ***MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil cum Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the business of purchase and sale of food grains in the years 1117, 1118 and 1119 was financed from "current revenues" or "surpluses" or by raising loans;

(*b*) the amount invested from each of those heads; and

(*c*) if loans were raised,

(i) how they were raised;

(ii) the party or parties from whom they were raised;

(iii) the terms and dates on which they were raised; and

(iv) whether they are subsisting today?

MR. S. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) The programme of purchase and sale of foodgrains was being financed from the cash balances of Government, supplemented when found necessary, by short term overdrafts from the Imperial Bank of India on favourable terms.

(*b*) and (*c*) Do not arise in view of the answer to (*a*).

Loan raised for the purchase of food grains.

21. ***MR. K. BALAKRISHNA MENON:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Government had to raise any loan to finance the purchase of food grains; and

(*b*) if the answer is in the affirmative:

(i) what is the amount so raised;

(ii) rate of interest on the loan;

(iii) from where the Government raised the loan;

(iv) what are the conditions of loan so raised; and

(v) what is the amount so raised from outside the State of Travancore?

MR. S. NARAYANA AIYAR: (a) No.

(b) In view of the answer to part (a), these questions do not arise.

Loan raised by Government.

22. *MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state how the amount of the loan of three crores of rupees raised by Government in 1119 is being utilised?

MR. S. NARAYANA AIYAR: The loan is proposed to be utilised for providing adequate finance for the implementing of capital schemes such as the extension of the Hydro-Electric Power supply, establishment of basic, heavy and subsidiary industries, improvement of agriculture by reclamation and intensive cultivation and other Post-war Reconstruction programme of Government.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know whether any specific scheme has been formulated under Public Works and the amount allocated for it?

MR. S. NARAYANA AIYAR: The honourable member is referred to the Budget.

PRESIDENT: Yes; the budget contains all that information.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know whether the budget contains all details connected with the post-war reconstruction schemes?

MR. S. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes, sir. The budget gives all the details.

Loan floated by the Government.

23. *MR. K. A. MATHEW: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) the amount raised by the recent loan floated by the Government;

(b) whether the amount has been invested already, if so, on what items; and

(c) if the amount has not already been invested, for what purpose do the Government intend using it?

MR. S. NARAYANA AIYAR: (a) Bh. Rupees three crores.

(b) No.

(c) The loan is proposed to be utilised for providing adequate finance for the implementing of capital schemes such as the extension of the Hydro-Electric power supply, establishment of basic, heavy and subsidiary industries, improvement of agriculture by reclamation and intensive cultivation and other Post-war Reconstruction programme of Government.

Nagampadam Bridge.

24. * **MR. CHAZHIKKATTU JOSEPH**: With reference to the Nagampadam Bridge, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing;

(*a*) how long it is since vehicular traffic through the bridge was stopped;

(*b*) the amount spent till now in making repairs to the bridge;

(*c*) the cause of delay in making the bridge safe; and

(*d*) the date by which the construction of the bridge is expected to be completed?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Chief Engineer P. W. D.*): (*a*) 2 years and 4 months.

(*b*) The bridge is being reconstructed and not repaired. A sum of Rs. 1,05,647-11-0 has been spent till the end of 11/1119.

(*c*) Difficulty in getting the required iron and timber materials.

(*d*) By the middle of Chingom 1120.

MR. CHAZHIKKATTU JOSEPH: നാഗമ്പടം പാലം പണി തീർക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ഇരുമ്പും തടിയും ഇപ്പോൾ കിട്ടിക്കഴിഞ്ഞുവോ ?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: കിട്ടിക്കഴിഞ്ഞു. പാലത്തിന്റെ വേലയും തീരാറായിരിക്കുകയാണ്.

MR. CHAZHIKKATTU JOSEPH: തടി എന്നു കിട്ടി ?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: അടുത്തകാലത്ത്; ഏകദേശം ഒരു മാസത്തിനു മുൻപാണ്.

MR. CHAZHIKKATTU JOSEPH: എവിടെനിന്നാണ് തടി കിട്ടിയത് ?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: ഗവൺമെന്റു ഡിപ്പോകളിൽ നിന്നും.

MR. CHAZHIKKATTU JOSEPH: ഗവൺമെന്റു ഡിപ്പോകളിൽ നിന്നും തടി കിട്ടുന്നതിലേക്ക് രണ്ടര കൊല്ലംവരെ വേണ്ടിവന്നുവോ ?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: ഇരുമ്പിന്റെ വേല മുഴുവൻ തീർന്നതിനുശേഷം തടി വരുത്തിയാൽ മതിയല്ലോ എന്നു വിചാരിച്ചുകൊണ്ടാണ് ഇത്രയും കാലം താമസം വന്നത്.

Nagampadam Bridge.

25. ***MR. K. R. NARAYANAN** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the date on which the contract for the Nagampadam Bridge was given;

(*b*) the date on which the work was to be finished as per the terms of the agreement;

(*c*) if the work has not been finished within the due date, the reasons therefor;

(*d*) the date on which the Government expect the work to be finished; and

(e) the amount required for the present work?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: (a) Makaram 1117.

(b) No definite date was fixed for the completion of the work on account of the present situation.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to (b) above.

(d) Normally before the middle of Chingom 1120.

(e) It is not possible to ascertain the actual amount now.

Nagampadam Bridge.

26. ***MR. V. MADHAVAN** (*Vaikom cum Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state why the repair works of the Nagampadam bridge in Kottayam town are not yet completed, and when they expect to complete it?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: The reconstruction of the bridge (not repairs) was delayed on account of the present difficulty in getting the required iron and timber materials.

The work is expected to be completed before the middle of Chingom 1120.

Government servants and elections.

27. ***MR. K. A. MATHEW**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they have issued a notification prohibiting Government servants from taking part in the recent elections to the Travancore Legislature beyond recording of their votes;

(b) whether they have received representations from any organisation or persons complaining about the infringement of this notification by officers of the Government; and

(c) what action they have taken against those who violated Government instructions?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The allegations that have reached them do not warrant any action as Government are satisfied that they are unfounded.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether there were specific allegations made by anybody?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: There were no specific allegations, and such allegations as were received, were found to be absolutely unfounded.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Was an impartial enquiry made by anybody?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Government have made their own enquiries in the matter.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Has anybody been asked to make impartial enquiries?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Government are presumably impartial, and the honourable member, I think, seems to be making an insinuation against the Government.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: What I want to know is whether anybody has asked Government to make an impartial enquiry?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: The President of the State Congress has requested the Government to start an impartial enquiry by a tribunal, and a reply has been given to him.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara* cum *Trivandrum*): May I know whether notice was given before the Government made enquiries?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: There was no notice required.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether natural justice does not require that sufficient notice should be given to the parties before enquiries are made?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: There is no question of natural justice arising in the matter.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government kindly enquire why natural justice does not arise in this case?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: The matter is one of opinion.

SAHIB BAHADUR P. S. MAHOMED: ഒരു എൻക്വയറി നടത്തേണ്ട ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്ന് ഗവണ്മെൻറിന് തോന്നിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Government do not consider that the allegations that were received warranted a public enquiry.

MR. CHAZHIKKATTU JOSEPH: May I know whether an election petition can cover questions on enquiry and interference by Government, etc.?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: That is a matter to be considered by the election Court on the filing of an election petition.

PRESIDENT: As this matter refers to correspondence that took place between me and the person who wanted a public enquiry I think I have in my capacity as Dewan, to make a statement.

Mr. Pattom Thanu Pillai, referring to various Officers of Government stated that he had heard that there were serious cases of infringement of the instructions and directions issued by Government, and wanted a public enquiry to be held. There were no particulars given, but there were general allegations. Government came to the conclusion that there must be more material and much more convincing proof for a public enquiry to be ordered. And, therefore, they stated that there were no grounds on which an enquiry could be initiated. If, on the other hand, an election petition were put in by anybody who alleged that his election was interfered with in a particular manner, there would be a judicial tribunal which will deal with the matter, and in my reply to Mr. Pattom Thanu Pillai, I said that until and unless such election petitions were put in and specific allegations as to undue influence were made and proved, Government could

not do anything. I have also added in my reply that it would be most embarrassing to order a public enquiry if after the results of that public enquiry, there was to be a judicial tribunal deliberating on the matter which might or might not agree with the results of that enquiry. In order to avoid that kind of conflict or possible conflict, Government stated in their reply to Mr. Pattom Thanu Pillai that they were not prepared to have any enquiry.

The Chief Secretary will please place on the table of the Secretary to the Assembly the correspondence on this matter.

Elections to the Legislature.

28. * **MR. S. SANKARANARAYANAN TAMPI**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Director of Public Instruction has given any specific direction or directions written or otherwise to the managers and teachers of grant-in-aid schools regarding their conduct in the recent elections to the Legislature;

(*b*) whether any direction has been given during elections of this kind on previous occasions and if there has been a deviation in the policy of the Government this time what was the reason for such deviation and if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative what were the directions given; and

(*c*) whether any rule or law exists prohibiting or controlling the managers and teachers of grant-in-aid schools being candidates or agents in elections to the Legislature and local bodies and if so what is the rule or law?

MR. A. GOPALA MENON (*Director of Public Instruction*): (*a*) No.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) There is no rule or law to the effect. Those who applied for permission were permitted to stand as candidates for election provided the Managers of their schools agreed.

Circular issued by the Director of Public Instruction.

29. * **MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU** (*Karunagapalli* cum *Kartikapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Director of Public Instruction issued a circular to the managers and teachers of aided schools directing them not to participate in the elections except by exercising their votes;

(*b*) whether Messrs. Mannathu Padmanabha Pillai and M. Govindan who are managers of aided schools indulged in active canvassing both through the Press and the platform in contravention of the circular; and

(*c*) whether any case of aided school teachers and managers acting as the authorised polling agents of N. S. S. and S. N. D. P. candidates has come to the notice of the Government?

MR. A. GOPALA MENON: (*a*) No.

(*b*) This does not arise in view of the answer to (a).

(*c*) No.

Circulars issued by the Director of Public Instruction.

30. ***MR. K. A. MATHEW**: Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table copies of all circulars issued by the Director of Public Instruction in regard to the recent election to the legislature?

MR. A. GOPALA MENON: No circulars were issued by the Director of Public Instruction on the matter.

Circular issued by the Education Department.

31. ***MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI**: Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Department of Education issued a special Circular on 9-11-1119 to the various educational institutions of the State and if so, place a copy of it on the table?

MR. A. GOPALA MENON: No.

Education Department.

32. ***MR. S. SANKARANARAYANAN TAMPI**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there was any complaint to the effect that the Director of Public Instruction, his Personal Assistant and a number of other officers of the Education Department have interfered with the election to the Legislature and coerced or persuaded the voters to vote for any particular candidate or against any particular candidates;

(*b*) if so, whether any action was taken on that; and

(*c*) if so, what was the nature and result of the action taken?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Certain allegations have been made against some of the officers of the Education Department by the President of the State Congress. Government are satisfied that they are unfounded.

(*b*) and (*c*) These do not arise in view of answer to (*a*).

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I have to make certain announcements. The House will have to elect three members to the University Senate, two memebers to the Standing Finance Committee, two members to the Public Accounts Committee, four members to the Public Works Advisory Committee, two members to the Transport Advisory Committee, six members to the Economic Development Board and four members to the Food Control Advisory Committee. The elections to the Senate, the Standing Finance Committee, the Public Accounts Committee, the P. W. D. Advisory Committee and the Transport Advisory Committee will take place on Tuesday, the 29th August, 1944, and the elections to the Economic Development Board and the Food Control Advisory Committee will take place on Wednesday, the 30th August. The elections shall be held as usual after the business of the day is over under the Chairmanship of the Deputy President or one of the Panel of Chairmen. The ordinary system of voting by ballot will be adopted.

Under Rule 69, the debate on the budget will begin with a general discussion and be followed by the voting on demands for grants. Two days have been allowed for the general discussion and the maximum of

seven days has been set apart for the voting on demands for grants. The demands will be taken up in the order in which they are printed in the List of Demands, a copy of which has already been furnished to honourable members. The demand under III Public Works including Water Works and Drainage, and X Land Revenue on Taxes on Income may each be discussed for one whole day and not more than half a day will be allotted for each of the remaining demands.

Every member, other than the Financial Secretary, will be allowed during the general discussion stage, not more than *fifteen minutes* as usual. But I hope honourable members will, while not unduly restraining themselves, allow as many non-official members as possible to participate in the discussion and also render it possible to give the Government members adequate time for reply.

When voting on the Demands for grants, every mover, and the official member who has the right of reply will be allowed ten minutes each and the other members five minutes each. Standing Order No. 59 requires notice of every motion to be given to the Secretary two clear days before the day on which the demand comes up for consideration. Late motions will not be accepted. It will facilitate business if honourable members giving notice of token motions which can most conveniently be for a reduction of one rupee will also specify the purpose underlying the proposed cut and take care to see that the cut motions are confined to amounts entirely votable.

In this connection I may also invite the attention of honourable members to my predecessor's ruling regarding budget motions, given on the 30th of July 1935, reported on pages 705 to 707 of Volume VI of the Proceedings of the Sri Mulam Assembly. For the information of the new members, I quote below the relevant portions of the said Ruling :—

> "The purpose of a token motion and the debate on a token motion must be strictly relevant to the purpose for which the amount sought to be reduced is demanded. If the motion relates to the total grant for a Department, the debate is allowed to range over the whole policy of the Department. If the total sought to be reduced is a sub-total, then the debate is allowed to range over only so much of the policy of the Department as may, by a rule of relevancy be apportioned to that sub-total. If, for instance, the amount sought to be reduced is only the single item of travelling allowance, the debate must be strictly confined to the travelling of the officer for whose travelling the amount is demanded. If the amount sought to be reduced is the amount of salaries for clerks, the debate must be confined to the work of the clerks. If the amount sought to be reduced is the sub-total under, say "Direction" in the Education grant the debate must be confined to the policy involved in *Direction* and no further. If, however, the amount sought to be reduced is the grand total of, say, the Education Demand, the entire educational policy, even the policy for which the Government are responsible, is within the scope of the debate."

So far, it is a question of relevancy. There is, however, another rule. Even if the purpose of the motion and the debate of the motion be relevant according to the rules of relevancy, even then the debate should not touch or range over a subject or grant which is non-votable or a subject which is beyond the purview of the Legislature.

[President]

Another point too may be mentioned. When the budget is under debate, the individual merits of an officer do not arise, though, as a part of the debate on policy, his work may be criticised. That there should be such and such office (if it be a votable office) may be discussed, but not who may hold that office, if there be such an office.

In regard to non-votable offices, even the question whether there should be an office or not does not directly arise though, perhaps, in a general way, it may be stated in the debate that the Department is run on too expensive lines because of high offices.

For calculating the number of hours to be allotted for the voting of demands, a day will be taken as from 12 noon to 6 P. M. One hour being available for question time, and another hour (2 to 3 P. M.) as lunch interval, the remaining four hours will be treated as one full day and two hours as half a day. If the whole of the first hour is not taken up for questions and answers, the time left over will be available for the voting of demands for grants. Such available time will not go to increase the time allotted to any particular Demand but will be available to the House and thus enable them to reach more demands.

ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS.

PRESIDENT: I have received certain notices of motions for the adjournment of the House. They are :—

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN (*Neyyattinkara* cum *Trivandrum*).

"I beg leave to move the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance namely the serious situation caused by the prevalence of dysentery in the coastal villages of Chirayinkil and Trivandrum taluks."

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Thiruvella*) :

"I beg leave to move for the adjournment of business of the house for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely the serious situation brought about in the country as the result of misuse of the powers under the Egg Control Order and the consequent loss and difficulties to which both the licencees and producers in Travancore are recently put to, with special reference to the supply of egg to Ceylon."

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI :

"I beg leave to move for the adjournment of the business of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz. the serious situation brought about in the country as the result of the most inequitable and irregular methods of distribution of the available quantity of kerosene oil among the people by the officers entrusted with the duty and the consequent difficulties and inconvenience to which the public are recently put to."

MR. S. SANKARANARAYANAN TAMPI :

"I beg to move an adjournment motion to discuss an urgent matter of public importance viz., the recent arrest of some prominent members of labour organisations in the country.

> The Secretary of the Factory Workers' Union, Quilon, was arrested on 25-12-1119. A notice by the Chief Secretary to the Government was served on him asking him to show cause why he should not be proceeded against for a speech that he delivered on 10-12-1119. He replied that the speech was an *extempore* one and as such he could not exactly remember the words used on that occasion and that he would be able to give an explanation only if the passages objectionable in eyes of Government were pointed out to him. And the Government instead of pointing out the objectionable passages caused him to be arrested and detained. The Vice-President and two other prominent workers of the Alwaye Factory Workers Union were also arrested on the 28th of Karkadagom 1119 If these people have done anything against the laws of the country they ought to have been proceeded against according to the ordinary or normal laws and there is no justification to invoke the special provisions of emergency laws at present. The present practice of arrest and detention is an infringement on the fundamental rights of citizens."

I may at once rule out the last motion on two or three grounds. For the information of the House I will point out the rules laid down in this behalf:—

> "(1) not more than one such motion shall be made in the same sitting;
>
> (2) not more than one matter may be discussed on the same motion and the motion must be restricted to a specific matter of recent Occurrence;
>
> (3) the motion must not revive discussion on a matter which has been discussed in the same session;
>
> (4) the motion must not anticipate a matter which has been previously appointed for consideration, or with reference to which a notice of motion has been previously given;
>
> (5) the motion must not deal with a matter on which a resolution could not be moved."
>
> "Notwithstanding anything contained in the rules just now cited the Dewan may disallow any motion for adjournment on the ground that it cannot be moved without detriment to public interests, and on his doing so, no further discussion of the motion shall take place."

I am ruling out Mr. Tampi's motion on the following grounds. Firstly it is not a motion at all. It is a statement of a case and it does not refer to any matter of urgent public importance. More fundamental than that is the point that the facts stated are not correct. The gentleman, referred to in the motion made a speech in which he said that "blood must be shed" as blood was shed in Quilon on a previous occasion. It was an incitement to the labourers to rise and shed blood. That speech came to the notice of Government. The Inspector-General of Police was instructed to send for Mr. Divakaran and point out those passages and make it perfectly clear to him that he must apologise for that expression of opinion failing which he would either be prosecuted or detained. No doubt he said, first of all, that he did not remember what he said. He wanted to know whether a verbatim copy of the speech was preserved. He put a number of questions to the Inspector-General of Police on that matter. From these, the Government were satisfied that the speech referred to was actually made and came to the conclusion that such a demand was not quite consistent with the principle adopted by the labour party or political party in

[President].

this country or anywhere else. So he was ordered to be detained. That detention was in pursuance of the inherent powers of Government, under the Defence of Travancore Rules. The Defence of Travancore Rules cannot be questioned on the floor of this House. On these grounds I disallow the motion.

So far as the other motions are concerned, I am sure the honourable members will realise that I do not minimise the importance of any of those questions; if they realise at the same time that if one such adjournment motion is allowed to be discussed here, it means and involves curtailment of the debate which is going to ensue. Every one of those points can be raised in the general debate and will have to be answered by Government. The procedure by way of adjournment is really not apposite or pertinent at this time of the general debate and the voting on demands for Grants. It is quite open to the members to raise these very matters by means of cut motions either on the discussion relating to the Food Department or on the General Administration Demand. There is also the fact that no further time than two days could be allotted for the purpose of general discussion and if these motions are allowed to be discussed on either of these days, two hours will be taken up by them and to that extent, the general discussion debate will stand curtailed. So, if the honourable members still want these adjournment motions to be discussed rather than have a general debate, I shall allow that view provided the honourable members agree to that view. As I said, no doubt they are matters of urgent public importance. It is however a matter for House to decide.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Sir, if the Government will kindly go into the questions relating to the respective adjournment motions, I have no objection to withdraw my motions.

PRESIDENT: The honourable member will realise that the Government have been doing nothing else for the last two months.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: My view is that the Government may look into those questions.

PRESIDENT: About the attitude of the military authorities and naval authorities, I thought I have made the position clear in my address. The honourable members of this House will see that we strongly disapprove of the manner in which the military authorities, the South Eastern Asia command especially, are now placing orders for the purpose of eggs. It is not that the Travancore Government want to give the order for eggs to A or B. The orders are placed by the Army and Naval authorities direct to A or B and we are forced to sell to them. This matter has been pointed out to the Government of India. The procedure is vitiated. Such irriegularities exist in regard to the purchase of timber. What the answer of the Government of India will be, what decision they will come to, I cannot say. In the circumstances, if the honourable members want to spend an hour or two for

these adjournment motions, it is for them to decide. I will be guided by the House. In respect of inequitable and irregular methods followed in the distribution of kerosene, it is entirely an internal matter.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN: I beg to withdraw my motion, Sir.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: I shall bring the subject matter of my motions during the general debate.

PRESIDENT: The Financial Secretary will now make the statement.

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE.

MR. S. NARAYANA AIYAR: Sir, under Rule 76 of the Travancore Legislative Rules, I beg to lay on the table the following statement of expenditure authorised by the Government under Section 32 of Act II of 1108.

Demand.	Amount in Rupees.	Particulars.
I. 1. Customs.	575	For Anchal Charges.
2. Excise	1,728	do.
do.	4,318	For pay of menials of the Excise Department.
do.	220	For payment of rent to the Excise Division Offices.
do. (a) Superintendence	1,300	For travelling allowance
do.	850	For telephone charges under contingencies.
do.	1,450	For office expenses and miscellaneous and tour charges.
do.	7,000	For equipment and clothing — contingencies.

[Mr. S. Narayana Aiyar:]

	Demand.	Amount in Rupees.	Particulars.
	2. (c) Ranges & Customs	1,350	
	(a) Establishment		For repairs to boats.
	4. Salt	118	For Anchal Charges.
	do. (b) Salt business	8,000	For transport charges of salt
	do. do.	6,000	Contingencies—for petty construction and repairs.
II.	3. (b) Division Cutcherries	3,700	For travelling allowance
	(c) Taluk Cutcherries	3,000	do.
	do. do.	6,000	For land acquisition charges
	7. Taxes on Income	8,858	For reorganisation of the Income Tax Department.
III.	5. Stamps (a) & (c)	39,260	For additional funds under contingencies for purchase of water marked paper, card boards, etc., and discount on sale of stamps.
	(b) Central Stamp Depot	620	Pay of menials and supply of tin cases.
IV.	6. Forest	2,992	Appointment of a Forest Settlement Officer & staff.

Demand.	Amount in Rupees.	Particulars.
V 8. Registration (a) Direction	400	For travelling allowance
do. do.	5,000	For binding charges
(b) District Establishment	500	For travelling allowance
(c) Sub Registry Offices Establishment	5,000	For contingencies
VII 36. Buildings, Communications, etc. (d) Works	25,300	For construction of a godown for storing food grains
do.	2,47,219	Additional grant for repairs and maintenance
do.	3,00,000	For special repairs and improvements to communications
do.	1,400	For construction of a godown at Alleppey for storing food grains
do.	10,438	For improvements to the Valiathura Pier
do.	36,480	For the construction of a permanent godown at Alleppey
do.	10,000	For the construction of garages etc. to the Advocate General's Office.

	Demand.	Amount in Rupees.	Particulars.
VII	36. Buildings, Communications, etc. (d) Works-(contd.)	20,000	For special repairs to the decking of Thondara Bridge.
X	Productive irrigation (b) Working expenses—Revenue Account	50,000	For restoration of flood damages in the Kodayar Project area.
IX	XXXII. State Transport (2) Working expenses	7,500	For allowance to the mechanical staff.
	do. (b) (iv) Training charges of fitters	4,000	Charges for training of fitters and operating expenses.
	do. (c) Operating expenses	1,06,500	For the purchase of lubricating oil.
	do. do.	1,00,000	For transport of materials for P. H. E. Scheme.
	do. do.	1,76,500	For the purchase of petrol, etc.
	55. Coastal transport.	64,900	For the construction of coastal sailing vessels.
XI	19. (a) General and Revenue Secretariat	3,000	For travelling allowance.
	do. do	7,000	For contingencies.
	(b) Publicity Secretariat	1,515	For contingencies.
XIII	19. (h) Legislative Bodies	45,000	For Electoral Rolls Special Officer, etc.

	Demand.	Amount in Rupees.	Particulars.
XIV	20. Administration of Justice (a) High Court	3,000	For contingencies.
	(b) Civil and Sessions Courts	809	For payment of war allowance to contingent employees.
	(c) Criminal Courts	20,000	For contingencies.
	do. do.	600	For purchase of books.
	(d) Law Officers	2,500	For dismantling and reconstructing the almirah etc., of the Advocate General's Office.
XV	21. Jails (a) Central Prison	45,000	For contingencies.
XVI	Police	330	For the appointment of an Assistant Superintendent of Police for the Trivandrum City.
	22 (a) Superintendence and for Rewards under (b) District Police	48,800	For purchase and upkeep of lorry, purchase of stores, etc.
	(b) District Police	25,000	For travelling allowance.
XVIII	24. Education—Government Grant to the University	5,000	For travelling allowance of the Education Reorganisation Committee members.
XIX	24. Education—B (a) v (a) Works & Special repairs	23,500	For construction of Assembly halls in the English High Schools for Girls.

Demand.		Amount in Rupees.	Particulars.
XX	25. Agriculture (c)	1,000	For the scheme for the improvement of paddy.
XXII	27. Co-operative Department—Direction	400	For travelling allowance
XXIV.	29. A. Medical (b) Hospitals and dispensaries	12,846	For contingencies—pay of menials.
	do. do.	60,000	For dieting charges.
	do. do.	2,210	For land acquisition charges
XXV	29. B. Ayurveda (d) Ayurveda Hospitals—Purchase of medicines	4,000	For purchase of medicines for the Ayurveda Department.
XXVI	30. Public Health	3,650	For expenditure in connection with anti-plague measures at Quilon and Kottayam.
XXIX	34. Stationery and Printing	52,500	For purchase of stores and chemicals and printing of Malayalam Readers and copy books.
	do. do.	1,100	For initial expenditure for vessels and furniture in connection with the opening of a Canteen at the Government Press.
XXX	35. Miscellaneous Departments excluding Radio Broadcasting--		
	Stores Purchase Committee	300	For contingencies.

	Demand.	Amount in Rupees.	Particulars
	Museum and Government Gardens	500	For uniforms for the employees of the Zoo and the Government Gardens.
	do. do.	7,000	For maintenance of Zoo animals.
	Game Department	950	For contingencies.
	do. do.	570	For new and maintenance works in the Game Department.
XXXI	45. Miscellaneous	43,500	For acquisition of land for the Sri Chitra Home for the Destitute and Infirm.
XXXII	XI. Anchal Department—Working Expenses.	670	For additional staff in connection with the remittance of money by the Labour Units.
XXXV	Debt Head III C (a) 3 vi. Advances repayable	6,000	Advance to the Ayurveda Department for the preparation and sale of medicines.
	49. Capital outlay on communications and buildings	1,33,790	For lands acquired and leased out to the Fertilisers and Chemicals, Travancore Ltd.
	I. Commercial Services—Vanchi Clay Mines.	155	For payment of compensation for lands acquired for the Vanchi Clay Mines and Refinery.

MR. C. K. SANKARA PILLAI: Sir, I beg to make a statement. Members at this end are not able to hear the speeches made at the other end of the House.

PRESIDENT: I do see that point. Unfortunately, at the time of building this, acoustic properties were not one of the items concentrated upon by the then authorities. I have observed that what is said at one end is not heard at the other end. It is therefore I am saying often and often that members should speak up so as to be heard. I really do not know myself whether my voice is being heard by the honourable members. In any case, I would inform the honourable members that so long as we are not able to rectify this defect, it should be our endeavour to speak up for the time being. At the same time I may say that Government have asked for the advice of experts for improving the acoustic property of this hall. Till that materialises, the members have to speak up. There is another aspect. If the punkas behind the members are moving during the speech of a member, what happens is that his voice is carried away and dispersed. Therefore, the best thing is that while the member is speaking at a particular place, the punka behind him must be stopped and I shall give directions accordingly. I trust that will be a solution. Therefore, the only alternative now is to speak up.

Another matter I wish to advert to in this connection is this. For the purpose of regulating the debate, I would request the honourable members belonging to organised parties and honourable members who have not yet joined any organised party but are independently functioning, to give their names to the Secretary personally or through the organised parties indicating their desire to participate in the debate. The necessity for this arises this way. I would like to have as many persons taking part in the debate as possible and for that purpose I shall have to come to some kind of dècision. Supposing in a party there are 25 persons, I will give opportunity for a good number to speak in proportion to the strength of the party. I trust the honourable members will co-operate with me and the Secretary and hand over their names.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR 1120.

RAJYASEVANIRATA S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pathanapuram cum Shencotta* [*Deputy President*]): Sir, our thanks are due in the first place, to the Financial Secretary for the very concise and lucid exposition of the finances of the State and for the clear picture of the three year budget programme which he has drawn up for us. Sir, this picture will be of invaluable help to us in understanding the budgetary position of Government and also in following their future policy.

Sir, let me, at the outset, remark that our State now occupies a position of pride among the Indian States from the view point of revenue. The revenue of the State has shot up to a level which is in the neighbourhood of Rs. 6 crores, and hence, Travancore has come to occupy, for the present, the third place among the States. I am optimistic enough to believe that the day is not far off when she shall move

to the second rank among the Indian States from the point of view of revenue. I am emboldened to venture this opinion because of the immense potentialities that exist for the development of the natural resources of the country.

Before I proceed to make some generel observations on the budget, let me make a few comments on the budgetary figures disclosed to us in the estimates. We have definitely entered upon an era of surpluses. The total amount of surpluses which we have been able to realise from the year 1116 to 1119 comes to Rs. 252 lakhs, which with the anticipated surplus for 1120, will aggregate to Rs. 421 lakhs. These accumulated surpluses, together with the loan of Rs. 3 crores raised by the State, will come to Rs. 7 and odd crores. These, with the anticipated surpluses for the next three years, will give us a handsome amount with which we can launch on the schemes of public utility and post-war reconstruction which we have projected. Sir, this is a very comfortable position on which the people as well as the Government may well congratulate themselves.

Referring to the general features of the budget, the first thing that has struck me is the inflated revenue of the Forest Department. The Forest Revenue has improved to Rs. 50 lakhs from the normal level of about Rs. 18 lakhs. This increase in the forest revenue has been brought about by war conditions, but I fear, Sir, whether we have been able to realise the full benefit of the war conditions in respect of forest revenue. I hope that the situation will be tackled in such a way that the best possible results may be obtained from this source.

I come next to Income-tax receipts. Our Income-tax receipts have shown a remarkable, phenomenal growth during the last four years. Our revenue from this source stood in 1116 at the level of Rs. 15 lakhs. It rose to Rs. 32 lakhs in 1118 and it is estimated to rise further to the level of Rs. 98 lakhs in 1120.

PRESIDENT: Probably more.

RAJYASEVANIRATA S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR: This is the estimate. This is a phenomenal growth and has been brought about mainly by the expansion of our trade and business activities. But, at the same time, I wish to utter a word of caution in respect of the growth of this source of revenue. The Government cannot afford to look with unconcern upon the sudden growth of revenue from one source, just as one cannot look with unconcern upon the sudden growth of human organism. I fear such a sudden growth will have its repercussions some times violent, upon the economy of the State.

Having made these preliminary remarks, I wish to make a few observations on certain general topics. In the first place, I wish to touch upon the post-war reconstruction scheme which has received very prominent attention during recent times. Our Government have drawn up a very comprehensive programme for post-war development. The major features of our post-war reconstruction programme are the extension of our hydro-electric resources, the exploitation of the mineral

[Rajayasevanirata S. Chattanatha Karayalar.]

resources of the country, the development of the forest resources of the country with a view to the production of rayon and artificial silk, the development of the transport system including coastal shipping, the production of chemicals and fertilisers and the inauguration of a Cement Factory. Our post-war plan also envisages the stepping up of the food production in the country including development of intensive cultivation and irrigation.

While on this question of post-war reconstruction, I may say that our Government have anticipated the authors of the Bombay Plan for the Economic Development of India. On the question of post-war reconstruction and the development of industries in post-war India, this is what their report says :—

> "The industries which the plan would seek to develop, may be classed into two categories, namely basic industries and consumption goods industries."

Speaking of basic industries, they say that, that would be the type of industries which would get absolute priority over the other. The basic industries which they think of developing are electricity, mining and metallurgy, machinery of all kinds, machine tools, chemicals including heavy chemicals, fertilisers, armaments and cement factories. If you compare the industries included in the list of basic industries of the Bombay Committee with that in our own programme, you will find that, barring the production of armaments, railway engines, waggons and automobiles, our programme comprises all the industries envisaged by that Committee. I say, therefore, that our Government have already anticipated the authors of the plan for the economic development of India. Speaking of the basic industries, this is what they say :—

> "These industries are the basis on which the economic-super-structure envisaged in the plan will have to be erected. It is obvious that in modern times, no industry can be established without power, machinery, chemicals etc. Similarly, without fertilisers, it is difficult to imagine any progress in agriculture. In the absence of adequate shipping and other forms of transport, economic life, especially in a country of the dimensions of India will remain stagnant. We consider it essential for the success of our economic plan that the basic industries on which the whole economic development of the country depends should be developed as rapidly as possible."

In their programme, they have very properly given the first place among the basic industries to the production of electricity. And that is also the place which our programme has given to electricity. On this question, the Bombay Committee says :—

> "We have deliberately placed the production of power first in the list of basic industries, because we believe that the development of our industries both large and small scale, as also agriculture and transport will be determined to a large extent by the development of electricity."

The rapid economic development of the U. S. S. R. and Japan during the pre-war period and of Canada during the present war can ultimately be traced to the development of electricity in these countries. The scope for the development of hydro-electric energy in particular

is very large in this country. Its potential reserves have been estimated at about twenty-seven million kilowatts out of which only half a million kilowatts have been developed so far. We have seen that the authors of the Bombay Plan have given the first place among the industries to the production of electric power. In our programme we have also done the same thing. The Government have decided to embark on a scheme for the development of hydro-electric power in the Periyar and Cardamom Hill areas and I trust they will push it through the several stages as expeditiously as possible.

In this connection I wish to suggest that the Government must go forward with the investigation of other hydro-electric possibilities in the State so that as much of electric power as possible may be produced and the reserve of power available may give an impetus to the growth and development of industries in the post-war period.

In our programme for post-war development, the mineral wealth of the country comes in for treatment. The mineral wealth has been exploited hitherto not for the benefit of this country but for the benefit of other countries. You, Sir, in the course of your address the other day to the Joint Session, referred to the great possibilities in regard to the ilmenite resources of Travancore. You said, that ilmenite has been put to a variety of uses in America. That is an eye-opener to us. We should immediately think of remedying the state of affairs that has prevailed hitherto and put a stop to the further exportation of our mineral sands. It was only two years ago that the President of Indian Science Congress at the session of 1942 deplored the depletion of the mineral wealth of India. He made those remarks with reference particularly to manganese and ilmenite resources of India. He even went to the extent of remarking that it was "suicidal to the economic interests of the country to allow these minerals to be exported. We are luckily launching on a drive towards industrialisation and should take the earliest opportunity to develop these mineral resources with a view to establishing the industries which are dependent upon these raw materials.

Another major item in the post-war reconstruction scheme is seen to be the stepping up of the production of food in the country. The war has unmistakably demonstrated to us the unwisdom of depending upon outside sources of supply for our food requirements. It should be the immediate objective of the Government to undertake measures to increase the production of food to about 250 per cent. of our present output. Sir, I recognise that the scope for the increase of food production in the country by extensive cultivation is rather limited. We are, therefore, thrown upon the alternative of increasing production by intensive cultivation. Intensive cultivation means that we have to depend upon the application of artificial manures like Ammonium Sulphate and Ammonium Phosphate. We have luckily got the Chemicals and Fertilisers Company established here for the production of these scientific fertilisers. This is part of the all-India plan for the production of artificial manures and I hope that the

[Rajyasevaniratha S. Chattanatha Karayalar.]

necessary priorities for securing the machinery and plant necessary for proceeding with the production of manures will be given by the Government of India and that we shall be able to start the industry almost immediately.

Speaking of the possibility of increasing the output of paddy from land, the Bombay plan quotes very interesting and significant figures.

> "By the application of artificial manures and fertilisers, Japan has been able to produce as much as 1.61 tons of rice per acre and U. S. A. 1·01 tons per acre as against the poor yield of 0.31 tons per acre in India".

These figures are very telling and important from the point of view of the possibilities of increased production.

In a programme for the increase of food production the place of irrigation works is no less important than other factors. Sir, we have got an efficient system of irrigation works consisting mostly of major irrigation works. At the same time, we have also got a system of minor irrigation works which are not less important. I am of opinion that the policy that the Government have been pursuing in regard to the maintenance of minor works has not been very wise. There seems to be a distinction drawn by Government in regard to the maintenance of minor irrigation works and major irrigation works. The Government seem to have really no responsibility for the maintenance of minor irrigation works. It may be observed that the number of minor irrigation works in Travancore far out numbers the major works and the total extent of land irrigated by minor works is far greater than that under major works.

I want to impress upon the Government and the House that the Government cannot continue the policy which they have been hitherto following in respect of the maintenance of minor irrigation works. I wish to suggest that the policy in this respect should be given the go-bye immediately and the artificial distinction drawn by Government in regard to the two categories of irrigation works should be abolished so that the production of food in the country may be very considerably speeded up.

Sir, having made these remarks, I now come to certain remarks that have been made both by you during the course of your address and also by the Financial Secretary in regard to inflation and the excess profits tax. Sir, the evils of inflation were adverted to by you not only during your last address but also during your previous address to the joint session. Certain measures were taken by Government last year to check the evils of inflation and they have been in operation. During the current year it is proposed to introduce a new measure to combat the evils of inflation, namely, the levy of an excess profits tax. Sir, it has been explained to us that the proposed levy of excess profits tax is intended not to augment the revenue of the State, not for fiscal purposes; but that it is only for the purpose of checking the evils of inflation and with a view to falling into line with the Government of

India in this matter. Sir, these are good arguments for the introduction of the levy. But I am of the opinion that it is not justified having regard to the fact that, in spite of the programme of industrialisation, the economy of the country is, and will continue to be mainly agricultural in character. In view of the programme of industrialisation to be taken up, I cannot contemplate with equanimity the introduction of this new measure at this stage. So long as the economy of the country continues to be agricultural I say, Sir, the conditions are not propitious for the introduction of this measure. I am of opinion that it is calculated to hamper and retard the growth of industries in the near future.

Sir, you referred in your address to the failure of the monsoon and the conditions brought about by that failure. The failure of the monsoon has created a problem of tremendous magnitude particularly in the border taluk of Shencotta. The present crop has almost completely failed and the prospect of raising the next crop is also very gloomy. The position now is that the people are driven to the necessity of crossing over to British India for food supplies. Even that possibility has been shut out by the failure of crops in the Tinnevelly District. You can imagine the position of the people in Shencotta. I hope the Government will very carefully consider the situation created by the failure of the monsoon and the consequent failure of crops. Added to this is the problem created by the enclave villages of Klankad and Samburvadakara. The producers of crops are very seriously handicapped in regard to the movement of their crops. It is impossible to move those crops to Shencotta proper. I hope the Government will try to slove this problem very satisfactorily so that the people at least of those villages may not be seriously handicapped in the transport of their food materials.

Sir, You referred, in the course of your address, last year, to the development of port facilities particularly with reference to Leepuram. Leepuram has been considered to have great possibilities as a port. I hope the development of this port will be taken up immediately and all proper port facilities will be afforded in the near future.

In this connection, I wish to refer to the development and reopening of the A. V. M. Canal. I suggest that the possibility of extending the canal as far as Cape Comerin should be investigated fully and if possible it should be opened as early as possible. The commercial value of such a canal cannot be overemphasised.

With these remarks, Sir, I trust that the Government will very deeply consider the suggestion I have put forward and implement them without delay.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Sir, I wish to open my speech by giving a well-deserved compliment to our Chancellor of the Exchequer. His budget speech is one of the very best I have ever read.

MR. CHAZHIKKATU JOSEPH: ഞങ്ങൾക്കു കേൾക്കുന്നില്ല.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: It compares very favourably with the budget speeches that I have read of Chancellors of the Exchequer in England.

We are proud that our revenues have ascended to the figure of five crores and prouder still that our revenues are likely to ascend to six crores. But this is not peculiar to Travancore. It is a matter in which other Provinces and States have also their share. For example, Sind is one of the minor provinces of India and has a population of only 3½ millions. It has been able to wipe off the whole of its debt on the Lloyd Barrage scheme and lay by 10 crores. We have the example of six major provinces of India going in for loans from one and half to three crores. Compared to that our financial position towers high. However doubts of a different character arise in my mind. What is all this money worth ?

We have our five or six crores of revenue, but we have to measure it in terms of its purchasing power. The purchasing power of the rupee at present is nearly 25 to 30 per cent. of what it was. When we consider this, our five or six crores will not amount to much. But however, we have to realise the fact that we have a very large surplus which we are able to lay by for post-war reconstruction purposes.

In this connection, I have to refer to the question of inflation mentioned in the Financial Secretary's speech and also referred to by the Deputy President in his speech. There seems to be some misapprehension as to how inflation comes in despite our efforts to cure it. Inflation or high prices, means only the disparity between the goods and services available and the volume of currency in circulation. Last year at this time, I said that currency notes put into circulation by the Central Government amounted to nearly 600 crores of rupees.

Nevertheless, inflation was going on at high speed. At present the amount of currency notes in circulation is 927 and odd crores of rupees. That means that more currency has been put into circulation, and that spells more disparity between the goods and service available and the amount of currency. That accounts for the present inflation. Why should this inflation go on ? Even the Central Government are unable to check it. They have to find finance for war purposes and the only method by which they can find finance is by printing and circulating more currency notes. What money they spend on behalf of the British Government is represented by a credit entry in the books of the Bank of England and that entry will not be able to fetch money. So long as the Central Government have no other source of supplying war necessities, they have to go on with the process of printing more and more currency notes. As we are intimately connected with British India the inflation that goes on there will have its necessary repercussions here also. Certain proposals have been made by the Central Government to check inflation by selling gold and silver and by canalising the flow of money into gilt edged securities and war loans, but they are only temporary and inadequate measures. It is only

shifting the burden from one shoulder to another. It is not a case of withdrawing surplus money from circulation. Inflation can be checked only in one or other of two ways. Either speed up production to the level of the amount of money in circulation or withdraw currency from circulation to the extent of the goods and service available in the market. If these cannot be done, inflation will continue.

PRESIDENT: Unless the volume of consumers goods is increased.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: I included not only local products but imported goods also.

Another methods tried in British India is control of prices. That is a very difficult matter. It is almost impossible. It may be tried in respect of imported goods. But in respect of and under conditions of distribution and production in Travancore or India control is impracticable. Once you start control you create a black market. Even the Government of Bengal had to recognise the black market in its published statistics. In spite of all these measures inflation will still continue. That is my view. But possibly our Financial Secretary may have an ace or two up his sleeve and he may be able to give us information as to how he proposes to deal with the subjects.

I am now proceeding to the main problems before us. The first is the food problem, the second health, and the third education. Let us recall to our minds what our position was this time last year, how by inter-provincial jealousy between neighbouring provinces, districts and States we could not get anything from British India. We were on the verge of disaster and starvation. But the position has brightened and now we are almost safe. But for the prestige, the contacts, the statesmanship and courage of the Head of the Administration, the position of Travancore and that of the sister State of Cochin might have been that of Bengal. Every Travancorean recognises it. Let us pay our tribute where it is due. But we are not still out of the wood. As soon as the European war is over, as it inevitably would, say, in a few months, a large part of the allied forces in Europe will be switched on to India. For these soldiers, Australian, Indian, British and American, supplies of every kind will have to be found in India. That might exhaust what little we have. The President told us of the havoc to crops caused by the recent rains in Sind. The Punjab reports that its crop will fall short of the estimate. The United States of America also predict shortages and will have to depend on Canada. Argentina now ostracised by the allies will have to be wooed again for its wheat. That is the food position in the western world. We shall have to depend on our own resources. We shall have to make the best of every inch of our land for which the co-operation of the members of this House and through them the whole of the State of Travancore will be necessary. So much for food. As to health the public health of Travancore is much better than elsewhere. As to education *ie.*, literacy we already stand first, in India. We are again going to pay particular attention to compulsory primary education. A vocational bent and a mechanic mindedmen have been

[Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar.]

recommended. You, Sir, have in contemplation schemes of far reaching importance. These cannot be effectuated without wealth or finance and how are we to find the finance? The only three sources of wealth are agriculture, manufacture and commerce. In the case of agriculture you have already taken the initiative by starting a huge fertilisers and chemicals industry, long before the British Government contemplated it. In the U. P. and Behar during the days of the congress regime they had come up to the stage of investigation and report and then the Congress went out of power. Beyond all that you have taken up the question of fisheries. I feel extremely gratified to fiind that now adequate attention is being paid to that subject. I have been speaking on this subject over and over again in this House. I said that so long as we have a network of inland waterways, so long as we have a long seaboard if our fisheries are properly attended to, there cannot be scarcity or starvation in Travancore. Last year I was very ably supported by my friend Mr. Puliyoor Velayudhan Pillai. And at last Government have recognised the necessity to separate the Fisheries Department from the University. But that will not do. A target will have to be set for him to reach in say six months or a year.

Going back to the Post-War Reconstruction Scheme, I have to refer to two or three items which are of very great consequence. The Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme has already been referred to. There is the Papanasam Scheme. Then there is the Kallar Scheme which was once discussed in this House. The discussion was led by our present Chief Secretary to Government and the Government were convinced of the necessity although the motion was lost by a narrow majority. It is time that we take up that scheme afresh. Then there is the Edncky scheme, the multi reservoir scheme and ever so many other schemes for investigation. What is needed is only further investigation and taking them up one by one. We have got resources which will be sufficient to give power to the whole of South India. When electricity is brought to every house and cottage new industries can be developed and to such an extent that Travancore can be a pattern to the rest of India.

I come to the machine tool industry next. It has been limited to the manufacture of spare parts for our transport vehicles. That is too small in scope. The machine tool industry in Travancore should be a much larger concern. Dalmias have estimated that at least 50 crores of rupees would be necessary for this industry. We must be able to manufacture all but aero engines and motor engines and railway engines.

PRESIDENT: Is not the member aware that even for the manufacture of implements for agricultural purpose we are not able to get enough iron from the Government of India?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: I am thankful for the remark. I know that it is impossible at present. I refer to it only as part of the scheme. Even Dalmias had to give up their scheme for the present.

Then is the manufacture of rubber tyres. As soon as the war is over, rubber will have its natural fall and many a man who now thrives upon his income from rubber will have a climb down. We have already two rubber tyre manufacturing concerns in India. There is the Firestone and Dunlop Motor Companies. Existing Motor Units in India may not be much more than three or four hundred thousand. That will not be enough to find work for three factories. If we are ever to have tyre manufactures we shall have to work in co-operation with the Firestone and Dunlop Companies and not in competition.

There are very many matters of importance in the post war reconstruction scheme. They are varied. By working out even a portion of these items we can forge ahead not only of the rest of India but also the rest of Asia with the possible exception of Japan. That will enable us in the scheme of things in the future federation or union of India to claim an integral part to ourselves. True the State is only about 7000 sq. miles in extent. But in point of density we almost top the rest of India. In point of revenue we are to have six crores. In point of education we have reached a higher standard than other parts of India. In point of political attainments I do not think there is any other part of India which can claim equality. Thus in the India of the future we shall be entitled to an integral part.

MR. CHAZHIKKATTU JOSEPH: സർ......

PRESIDENT: He will speak only when called upon to do so.

Before any other honourable member speaks I am sure the House will be glad to hear the contents of a telegram which has just been received which would relieve our anxiety with regard to food to a very large extent. The telegram states that the Government of India have placed at our disposal the entire wheat produced in Sind.

Honourable members will speak only when they catch the eye of the Chair. But the eye of the Chair is regulated by certain rules. I have got a list of honourable members who have evinced their inclination to speak and perhaps, Mr. Joseph's name is in the list. I have arranged them in a certain order, and I shall call upon them in that order.

MR. K. G. KESAVAN NAIR (*Changanacherry* cum *Peermade*): Sir, Let me at the very outset express my sincere thanks......

PRESIDENT: I find that in the list Mr. Joseph's name is not included. What I requested the leaders of the various organised parties was to give the names of the honourable members of their parties who want to speak. I do not find Mr. Joseph's name in that list. But I shall put it in now.

MR. BALAKRISHNA MENON: What about those members who do not belong to any party?

PRESIDENT: They will give their names individually to the Secretary. Then I will put them in some order. We have got the whole of today and tomorrow for the general discussion. I wish to give opportunities for as many honourable members as possible for speaking.

MR. K. G. KESAVAN NAIR: At the very outset I desire to express my congratulations to the Government on the success that they have achieved in increasing the revenues of the State. I also congratulate the Financial Secretary for the lucid way in which he has been able to present the budget before the House and the concise manner in which he has prepared the budget.

I am mindful of the fact that the recent increase in the revenues of the State is to a certain extent due to the conditions of the war. But the conditions of the war alone would not create the prosperous financial situation that has been obtained, unless you, Sir, as the head of the administration directed the resources of the State to be properly utilised to that end. When the war is over I think there will be a fall in the revenues of the State and so we must be prepared to meet that contingency. I am glad to find that the Financial Secretary has considered that contingency also and I suppose that that is the reason why the Government have not raised the cost of expenditure to such an extent as in proportion to the rise in the revenues of the State.

Looking at the budget, a very loyal citizen of the State is elated with pride at the rise in the revenues of the State. Before I begin to discuss on the various amounts allotted to the respective departments, I wish to point out a few facts which the Government ought to consider in future. I desire that the Government should, in determining the expenditure that is to be made, keep in mind certain principles in allotting the sums to various departments. When the war is over there will be a fall in revenue and to meet that situation it is clear that the Government have set apart the surplus amount for postwar reconstruction schemes.

I find that the Government have yet to consider the beggar problem in the State. We see in the streets many beggars who have become a source of trouble and nuisance to the public at large.

PRESIDENT: Will the honourable member indicate the measures that he is speaking of?

MR. K. G. KESAVAN NAIR: I am speaking of a particular necessity......

PRESIDENT: What I was asking was whether the honourable member would very kindly enlighten the House as to whether he proposes legislation or any other form of social amelioration. If so, we shall be grateful.

MR. K. G. KESAVAN NAIR: I submit that the Government should enact some piece of legislation to ameliorate the condition of the poor people.

MR. S. SANKARANARAYANAN TAMPI: There are various kinds of beggars in the State and I would like the honourable member to state which kind of beggars he means.

MR. K. G. KESAVAN NAIR: The beggars who wander about the streets for alms. These beggars spread disease......

MR. P. M. VARGHESE (*Minachil* cum *Thodupuzha*): ധർമ്മത്തിനായല്ലാതെ സമ്പാദിക്കാനായി ആരെങ്കിലും നാഷനാലൈസേഷനാകുമോ എന്ന് അറിഞ്ഞാൽ കൊള്ളാം.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I think for the benefit of the new members I might say that if an honourable member does not surrender his seat, that is, if an honourable member wishes to interrupt and put a question to another honourable member on his legs, the latter need not 'yield place' as it is called. If he does not yield place, the other honourable member will not be allowed to put any question but must wait until the honourable member on his legs finishes what he has got to say. But if the honourable member is willing to submit to interruption during the course of his remarks, then he will take his seat.

MR. K. G. KESAVAN NAIR: I proceed to talk about the necessity for improving agriculture in the State. Travancore is, and has ever been, mainly an agricultural country, and it is necessary that we should increase agricultural produce in the State. It is good that the Government have consented to the purchase of rice from outside the State and also to the purchase of a certain proportion of paddy from within the State. Yet what we should consider is, though we have done the best that we can command, the quantity is not sufficient for the consumption of our people in the State. Therefore, it is the primary duty of the Government as well as that of every citizen of the State to produce more food.

What I want to consider is that our Agricultural Department has not been very much helpful in this sphere. Certain people believe that the agricultural department has been very lazy and has not rendered the help that they ought to have. They seem to think the amount spent on the department is not of any use. I think that if the agricultural department had been a little more careful and if it had taken sufficient steps to propagate their measures and carried on sufficient propaganda to make the people acquaint themselves with scientific methods of cultivation, the position would have been far better than it is at present. The department has done nothing to avert the food crisis through which we have been for the last three or four years. In this connection I have to make one suggestion for the consideration of the House. That is: fertile areas in the forest regions are now included in the reserve forests. I do not advocate the registry of these lands in the name of individuals or to any association, but what I want to stress is that the agricultural department should take upon *itself* the responsibility of cultivating the portions now included in reserved forests. The forest department as well as the agricultural department should join together and must draw up a scheme to bring the aforesaid idea into effect. Although this may appear to be a very fantastic idea to some of us, it will be productive of very fine results if the scheme is boldly and sincerely taken up.

It is the primary duty of Government to provide food for the people and try to get as much as possible for their use. It is also the duty of the Government to devise sufficient means to make a fair distribution of the food that is in their control. It is further the duty

[Mr. K. G. Kesavan Nair.]

of the Government to equalise and stabilise the prices of commodities and food grains. In that connection I beg to submit that the purchase of paddy by Government has created some amount of discontent and dissatisfaction among the people of the State. It is not a case where the people were forced to part with a portion of their paddy but it is a clear case where the means adopted by Government to effect purchases have caused heart-burn to the people at large. In the course of the purchase, the owners of the paddy fields were put to very great difficulty by the subordinate officers of the department. I quite see that it may not be an intentional act on the part of the officers of Government. When the quota due to Government has been determined and when sufficient provisions have been made to collect it from the people I cannot understand why there should be a control in the transportation of the same from one place to another. In that way the people of the State are put to difficulties and inconvenience. I think that aspect of the matter ought to be considered by Government favourably.

A word about the different industries that are proposed to be undertaken by Government. Of course it is a nice plan and we understand from the report of the Financial Secretary that there are several schemes to be undertaken. It is not in the making of the plan that we are going to be benefited but in the execution of it. That has to be borne in mind. It is very fantastic to think that some schemes described in the report can be realised in the near future. Although schemes will take years for realisation, it is gratifying to note that we have begun from small beginnings in that we have already started some industries in the State and that provision has been made for reorganising a few others. In these circumstances my submission is that it is absolutely necessary to devote more attention to the Industries department. (President's bell).

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara cum Trivandrum*): Sir, at the very outset I wish to express my thanks to the Dewan-President for the invitation which he extended to the members of the Assembly to co-operate. Sir, according to us, members of the State Congress Party in the Assembly, this invitation is all the more welcome because, according to us, we were treated in a different manner in the matter of recent elections. According to us, officials did interfere. According to us, we did not get the ordinary courtesy due to a citizen from the officials in the matter of elections. Anyhow, we as a political party are convinced that it will not serve any useful purpose to harp upon the past. We want to live in the present. We have come here to advocate the cause of the peasants and the workers. We know that the Constitution Act in the State does not provide for opposition as such and opinion as such in the jurisdiction of the mother of Parliaments. After having carefully studied the provisions of this Act, I am convinced that there is scope only for moral persuasion, that is, to morally persuade the Government to change its ways and means so that those ways and means may prove beneficial to the public at large, especially to the workers and the peasants in this country, who are to-day ill-fed and ill-clad and whose children are conceived in penury,

brought up in penury, probably abject penury. We know we will be fooling ourselves if we adopt anything except an attitude of co-operation and therefore I submit before this august assembly, that we are not here for any sort of obstruction. I may assure you, Sir, that when it is a question of considering two fairly possible views on a subject, we certainly will not oppose a measure of the Government for opposition's sake which is unworthy of a gentleman and I, for my part, am not going to indulge in any such thing. Nevertheless, I venture to submit before the House that our support or co-operation will not be the co-operation of the time-server or the place hunter. (*Hear hear.*) . We are here to advocate the cause of the peasants and workers with all the earnestness we can command. With these observations I proceed to the subject matter under consideration.

Sir, from the budget that has been presented before the House by the Financial Secretary on the 30th Karkatakam of last year we find that the substance of the Financial Secretary's speech is that our financial position is unquestionably sound. I regret very much that I cannot agree with that view of the Financial Secretary. I will now proceed to place before the House my reasons for that. Sir, if during the course of the discussions in this House arguments will be forthcoming so as to convince me that I am wrong, I may assure you Sir, that nobody will be happier than me in coming to the conclusion that I am wrong. Now what is it that we find from this budget. The Financial Secretary himself says that there will be a big revenue of about 6 crores of rupees at the end of the year. He himself says that it can legitimately be expected that there will be a revenue of 6 crores of rupees. Now I ask whether his expectation is based on solid facts. I am sorry I do not cherish his optimism. My reasons are these. The Financial Secretary himself says that due to a variety of causes the war may come to an end suddenly and if the war ends suddenly, I am sure a period of depression is bound to follow. We do not know when this war will end. If we find that this war is likely to end during the course of the year—it may or may not be, granting that for a moment, what will be the position of the State. We cannot expect the same revenue as we have now expected. Then the position will be whether our expectations will prove to be correct. The Financial Secretary says in another place that we are in an unassailably sound financial position. Let us see what the real position is as regards the assets and liabilities of the State. A scrutiny of that will show that his expectation is not founded on solid facts. What are the items that constitute the liabilities and the items that constitute the assets, we will just examine. The figures given in respect of liabilities are unassailable and they must be accepted as correct. These figures given in respect of assets are made up of various items whose value can only be arbitrary. There are several items which may be scrutinised in that connection. Shares in industrial concerns, shares in the Travancore Credit Bank, Distress Relief Fund investment, Rubber Factory amounts, Telephone scheme, Electric schemes, Broadcasting schemes, State Transport, Postal Transport, are all instances in point. With regard to all these, value depreciates after some time.

PRESIDENT : Is the honourable member aware that every year an amount is set apart for 'depreciation'?

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI : Making all due allowances for all those items, the value can only be accepted as arbitrary or at any rate uncertain. No human agency can be able to say precisely what its present worth is. In other words, when the value is calculated a few years hence it will become less than the present one. That is why I say that no human agency will be able to say exactly what the value of those undertakings will be at the present time, and its value a few years afterwards.

My point is this. Here is a statement of assets and here is a statement of liabilities. My submission is that from these figures the conclusion arrived at by the Financial Secretary in paragraph 16, namely 'Against this liability, our assets including the outlay on our productive schemes amount to Rs. 17·56 crores, which is Rs. 39 lakhs in excess of the liabilities....... ....Our debt position may therefore be considered as satisfactory' is not correct.

PRESIDENT : Order, order. The Honourable member has obviously made a close and earnest study of the figures. In order to enable him (not to interrupt him) to develop his point more accurately and thereby, possibly give a guidance to Government, I would mention one or two matters which he might deal with.

Let us take for instance, the Rubber Factory. No doubt the Rubber Factory cost us about Rs. 9 lakhs to start with, including machinery, furniture etc. We have made a profit of somewhere near Rs. 37 lakhs last year and in 1119 also we have made good profit. We have been able to get a total of about Rs. 65 lakhs as profit out of the concern, and we have been setting aside a certain sum for depreciation, so that the capital value of the Rubber Factory, in the final count will be zero, because all the amount would be written off for depreciation. The same thing will happen in regard to the Sugar Factory. So too with all commercial concerns. So far as all industrial concerns are concerned, profits are made during the period of war. Probably after the war we shall make only about Rs. 15 to 20 lakhs. So we now set apart a good amount for depreciation.

I would also ask the honourable member to remember that the liability column contains largely Savings Bank deposits. These also contribute to increase the liability. If the position gets worse people withdraw the money from the Savings Banks. The more distress there is in the country, the more the money that will be taken away from the Banks. Therefore the fact that there is more in the liability statement in this direction should show that there is not much distress in the country due to shortage of cash. These are aspects which, no doubt, a careful student like the honourable member will deal with.

The House rose for lunch at 2·5 P. M. and re-assembled at 3 P. M.

PRESIDENT : A certain amount of the time allotted to the honourable member Mr. T. K. Narayana Pillai was taken up by interruptions. Hence I am allowing him some more time.

But before I call upon the honourable member, I may make it clear that arising from the adjournment motion by Mr. S. Sankaranarayanan Tampi, I made further enquiries into the matter. The verbatim copy of the speech was shown by the D. S. P. to Mr. Divakaran, and he has signed it in token of its correctness. This copy contains the passage about the shedding of blood and that is the position that I thought the Honourable House should be made aware of.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI : I refer to the Government balance as seen in the statement of assets and liabilities. I will refer to similar figures in previous years. In 1094, when the revenue of the State was Rs. 181 lakhs, the balance was Rs. 59 lakhs. In 1098, when the Government revenue was Rs. 195 lakhs the balance was Rs. 70 lakhs. In 1103, the revenue was Rs. 243 lakhs and the balance Rs. 163 lakhs, in 1109, revenue was Rs. 334 lakhs and the balance Rs. 117 lakhs. Now, according to the budget estimate for 1120, the balance is Rs. 39 lakhs. Government revenue admittedly reaches a peak figure. It is very difficult from the comparison of these figures to conclude that the budgetary position is satisfactory.

My point will be made clear from the following facts. There were huge savings as the figures show, in the first decade of this century, of the Malabar era. In spite of the peak figure arrived at this year, we are able only to have a balance of Rs. 39 lakhs. This does not seem to be a satisfactory state of affairs.

PRESIDENT : Order, order. The honourable member will realise that the small figure in the final accounts is due to the very much greater investment by the public with the Government. In the old days there was not this liability on the part of Government. The Savings Bank deposits were not so large then, therefore all the assets were one-sided. Now more people are investing their money in the Savings Bank. Formerly there was not even half a crore of rupees in the Savings Bank. Now the total amount of the indebtedness of the State to various people is Rs. 5·176 crores. That is not due to any other reason than the confidence of the people in the Government of the day. Also we cannot expect all the people to whom Government are indebted to the extent of Rs. 5·176 crores to ask for a return of the money immediately. But even if they ask for the Rs. 5·176 crores, and the Government pay back the money in full, they have still Rs. 39 lakhs as balance. Normally speaking, every Government proceeds on the basis that they will not be asked to return this money for the next two or three years. Therefore the honourable member will understand that the increased liabilities of the State only show the confidence of the people in the Government. Whereas they were investing only about Rs. 15 lakhs formerly, it will be seen that the deposits now are very large.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: What I stress is that the Government balance at present is Rs. 39 lakhs. With due respect to the Chair, I must submit that my argument in this respect still holds good. We have in the Anchal Savings Bank deposits nearly Rs. 5¾ crores. Then again there is the Rs. 3 crore debt and Rs. 1/2 crore debt also and several other debts. This debt of Rs. 5¾ crores has been incurred at a time of inflation. Supposing the war stops suddenly and we have to repay this amount. We will have to repay at the time of depression. That means that we have borrowed at a time when the value of money is low and we have to repay when the value of money will be high......

MR. A. K. BHASKAR (*Quilon cum Kottarakara*): How is the value of money less to-day? Do you not get twenty-eight and a half chuckrams for a rupee now as you did always?

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: I say that the value of money is low, because the price of food and commodities has gone up. What you used to get for twenty-eight and a half chuckrams, you certainly cannot get now. You must pay very much more. That is why I say that the value of money is low.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: (Interruption.)

PRESIDENT: Unless honourable members have any special point to be cleared or any special inaccuracy to be rectified, I would deprecate interruptions in the general debate, because Honourable members have only a short time for their speeches and they would probably have come with a prepared case and would desire to present it to the House. Frequent interruptions mean more and more time taken up and the speaker will lose much of his time.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: This Rs. 3 crore will have to be repaid in 1951-52 and the half a crore in 1956. We know that the depression which set in as a consequence of the last war was felt most acutely, in 1929-30, *i. e.*, more than a decade after the actual hostilities were over. We do not now know how long the depression consequent upon the present war will last and what will be the conditions at the time when we will have to repay this debt. Even according to the Financial Secretary, the revenue which has reached now the peak level, must necessarily fall. The revenue at the time when you have to repay will be low and the money value will be high and the consequences will legitimately be that the finances of the State will be far from satisfactory. As years pass by, the finances will be in a more and more dangerous situation.

PRESIDENT: Does the honourable member mean that we should decline to receive Savings Bank deposits or that we should not take any loans?

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: My submission is that the policy of taking loans is not a very safe one.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. The Honourable member will realise that the Government of India and all the local Governments have, within the last week taken loans. I may mention that whereas we have not had any recourse to underwriters, seven of the Provinces have taken loans for less amounts than ours, and these loans were not over-subscribed as in our case, but had to be obtained through the agency of under-writers. The Honourable member might also be aware that the Government of England have also taken loans for their post-war reconstruction programmes. It is felt that unless we take loans now, we will have to pay 4 1/2 or even 5 per cent when we take the loans in the post-war years.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: We must look to the future. I feel I am correct in my inference that this money is used at a time of inflation and the money will have to be repaid at the time of depression and then the finances will be very unbalanced.

PRESIDENT: It is expected that in 1952 there will be no depression.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: My point is this. After the last war, the depression began immediately after the war and continued to be felt acutely in 1929-30 long after the termination of the war. We do not know what the conditions created by this war will be and how they will affect the State; it is difficult for anybody to foresee that. But if the past is any guide to the future, we may expect a period of depression to begin immediately after the war and to continue long after. As the figures show there is a debt amounting to more than Rs. 17 crores. A substantial portion of this will have to be paid at a time when we should expect depression, and when there is every chance when the State revenues will be lower than what they are now.

In support of the allegation that the revenue will be less than what it is now, there is the assertion of the Financial Secretary himself. This being the case, my submission is that the satisfaction felt by the Financial Secretary is not justified by the figures and the circumstances that exist to-day.

When all is said and done, the question whether this budget is or is not a successful one must be judged from the standpoint of the ordinary peasant and the worker. These complicated figures and balance sheets may not be quite easy for them to understand. The questions that they ask are: Will our food be cheaper this year or the next year? Can we purchase rice at a cheaper price? Can we purchase chilly and salt at a cheaper price? Can we go to the markets without paying duties and can we have better roads to reach our markets? Can we have better irrigation or draining facilities so that we can irrigate or drain our paddy fields? Judging the budget from these standpoints, what exactly is the position? Will food be cheaper next year? Will the price of chilly and salt be cheaper next year? Will the price of cloth be cheaper next year? My submission is that when the budget is considered from these standpoints the Financial Secretary will not be able to give any satisfactory answer.

[Mr. T. K. Narayana Pillai.]

I would next draw the attention of the House to the Grow More Food Campaign. The Financial Secretary, has, if I mistake not, stressed on that point. I am not going to deal with this question with reference to the whole of this State. My knowledge about the exact conditions of other parts of Travancore than south Travancore is very limited, but I will refer entirely to South Travancore. A reference to the South Travancore Irrigation Committee Report would show that an area of 60,000 acres of land is irrigated by tank water. And the report also says that if tank is repaired now, within ten years it will lapse into its original conditions, and hence will become useless for the Agriculturist. On a perusal of the statement made in this House in the previous years it is found that the Government had in contemplation the starting of irrigation works in South Travancore and other schemes for the renovation of irrigation tanks. Unfortunately it is found that none of these schemes had been carried out. So much so at present crops are failing and continued to fail. It is more than probable that crops will fail this year. The crops are failing because there are no proper irrigation facilities.

The Government are contemplating the spending of huge sums of money on huge schemes, some of which have been mentioned before this House. Here is a scheme which would considerably solve this food problem. In all humility, I ask why were not the irrigation facilities contemplated in South Travancore taken up and completed within a period of, say, three years so that the ryots may have complete irrigation facilities? Why was not the continued maintenance of irrigation facilities adopted by Government? There is a huge problem connected with irrigation which has been brought to the notice of Government, and, that is the problem of soil erosion. During floods soil is washed away. What has the Government done in order to solve the problem of soil erosion? The drainage *thodus* are washed away and the sand and mud thus washed away silt up the paddy fields which cannot be cultivated. If one scheme of grow more food campaign is essential I submit that it is this campaign of soil erosion. I have been studying this budget but I cannot find that any adequate provision has been made to meet this serious question. One member who was representing a European community in the council said that soil is the richest possession and Travancoreans are losing soil every year. I am sorry to note that due attention has not been given to this question so much so we are every year loosing the richest of our possessions. My submission is that while Government contemplate starting new schemes, there are schemes which would make the difficulties of the cultivator less than what it really was. I ask why those schemes have not been started. In the statement you made to this Assembly you stated that six major schemes of irrigation will be started and investigation proceeded with. We do not know when the investigation will be started and when it will be completed. In the meanwhile the ryots will be suffering. In the taluk from which I come

I can point out that several acres of paddy fields are not cultivated, the drainage channels are not maintained and large acres of paddy fields are silted up. My point in drawing the attention of Government to this subject is that it is more important to carry out these schemes successfully than to embark on new ventures.

MR. S. NARAYANA AIYAR: May I point out that we have provided rupees one lakh for tank improvement alone?

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Sir, I have touched on the main points to which I wanted to draw the attention of the House. In conclusion, I may be permitted to make one statement. You, Sir, made certain remarks about the activities of the State Congress. You said that the State Congress has been guilty of various acts of violence in the past. Nevertheless, the State Congress has not been declared to be an illegal organisation. At the time all of us joined the organisation and ventured to stand for election on the Congress ticket, it was clear that it was not an illegal organisation. If my information is correct the State Congress leader demanded of the Government an open enquiry into the alleged interference by the officials.

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI: On a point of order, Sir. Under rule 17, at the time of the general discussion on the Budget, the debate has to be confined to the budget as a whole and not to any other point.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Narayana Pillai will deal with that question of order.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: I am not particular of making any statement at present. When total cut motions on particular demands which have been submitted before this House come up for discussion, I hope I will get a fair opportunity to meet the statement that you have made here.

PRESIDENT: Certainly. The statement made by me this morning was made in my capacity not as President of the Assembly. It is only *dicta* from the President of the Assembly, which are immune from criticism or attack. Statements made by the Head of the Administration are open to criticism, and in the course of token motions the honourable member is perfectly at liberty to raise the points that he has indicated. Have you finished?

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Yes, Sir.

MR. A. K. BHASKAR (*Quilon* cum *Kottarakara*): Sir, I wish to join the honourable members in paying a tribute to the skill and vigilance of the Financial Secretary in preparing the Budget and for the lucidity with which he has presented the budget before this House. Every patriotic Travancorean should feel proud of the fact that our State has come to great prominence among other Indian States even in point of revenue. Never in the annals of Travancore has the revenue gone up to this height. It is gratifying to note that the surplus revenue has been set apart for post-war reconstruction schemes and compulsory elementary education. In times of war, it is the practice

[Mr. A. K. Bhaskar.]

obtaining in other countries that the rich are taxed for the benefit of the poor and the levy of excess profits tax that is now contemplated does not in any way affect the poor and as such I welcome it.

Rice is the staple food of the people of our State and in pre-war days, we were getting our supplies mainly from Burma and Siam. By the outbreak of the war the problem has become very acute. Thanks to the timely and courageous handling of the situation by our illustrious Dewan, the situation has improved. Our people are not familiar with the food grains that are now rationed to us, namely, bajra, juar or maize. Sir, you know that all the available man-power in the State is engaged either in war industries or in active war service in various theatres of war. It is only fitting, therefore that the Government of India come to our rescue and give us food more suited to our taste and from provinces near to us. No amount of currency inflation or control of prices will solve the problem of dearness. The only solution is to produce more food grains, cloth and other essential articles. One may ask whether production can be increased. I say with all the emphasis at my command that production can be increased enormously if the Government will inspire and mobilise the country's mind and capacity. Travancore is mainly an agricultural country. Unlike other countries, our agriculturists are poor and they have only small holdings. To increase production we must have group cultivation and the Government must supply them tools and give irrigation facilities. I would suggest that group cultivation on a co-operative basis may be taken up under the supervision of the Government for the benefit of the poor people.

Coming to the coir industry, it is one of the biggest cottage industries in the State and many thousands of men and women are engaged in the industry. In these days, the coir manufacturers are exploited by the capitalists. Controlling of prices for coir yarn, leaving the market of cocoanut husk raw and soaked, uncontrolled has left the manufacturer in a disadvantageous position. I shall illustrate by one example. Suppose there is a family consisting of 5 or 6 members. They have got a spinning wheel and depend for their livelihood on the manufacture of the coir yarn. As they have no soaking of husks, they have to purchase soaked husks from capitalists at prices they dictate. The poor wage earner is compelled to pay the price that they demand for the soaked husks. So, in comparison with the controlled price, they have to pay higher prices for husks. The controlled price for Anjengo yarn at present is Rs. 137½. But the poor manufacturer cannot sell at that price, owing to high price they pay for soaked husks. The capitalist contractors of Alleppey are not getting sufficient supplies of coir yarn at controlled prices. Because the controlled price now in force is not remunerative for the producer.

PRESIDENT: I wanted to verify what the member had stated and I have done so. I suppose the honourable member is aware that no ceiling prices have been fixed for coir yarn excepting to the extent to which coir yarn is required for war orders and in respect of categories for the war department orders. I suppose the honourable member is aware of it.

MR. A. K. BHASKAR: Yes, Sir. The maximum price is Rs. 137½ and the contractors are not able to get at this price. So they are not able to execute their contracts and there is a black market. The actual manufacturer is suffering. He is afraid to sell it in the open market. Therefore, he sells it in the black market. Some middlemen go to the producer and buy from them, take it to Alleppey and sell there. They get a bill at Rs. 137-8-0, but really they sell for Rs. 165 or Rs. 170.

PRESIDENT: Is not a remedy open, to pursuade the honourable member's constituents to form into a group for this purpose and to insist on selling at a particular rate. Government will only be glad to fix a flooring and a ceiling price.

MR. A. K. BHASKAR: I want a portion of the large war contracts received by the Government to be allotted to the skilled labourers and workers who are working in these factories also. They should organise Co-operative Societies and conduct small model coir factories. Thereby we will able to solve a great deal of discontent now prevailing among the workers. In and out of season the labour leaders without knowing the actual position misrepresent facts to the poor workers and place them very often in difficulties. If a certain portion of the large war orders, received are distributed amongst the small factory owners and to the workers, Co-operative societies, also the discontent now existing amongst the workers can be solved to a very great extent.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): If I am not interrupting the honourable member, may I inform him that the Coir Trade Committee has accepted what he has recommended?

MR. A. K. BHASKAR: The honourable member Mr. Karunakaran was just informing the House that the Coir Trade Committee has allotted a portion of their contracts for the small factory owners. But I may inform the House that there are a very large number of factories from Chirayinkil up to Aroor. I am aware that recently a portion of the order has been allotted to the small scale factory owners. But that is not sufficient. There are still a large number of small factory owners left out. Every one of them may be given a part of the contract by forming into a group system or in their individual capacity. By this process we can eliminate the middlemen and thereby prevent competition. The labourers and the workers should be informed of the actual position. Our neighbouring Province is getting raw materials from our country and successfully conducting many cottage industries. I wish our Government also should take up a scheme to develop many a small industry on a cottage industry basis.

Coming to the last point, I have to observe that from Abkari there is a revenue of 42,47,205 rupees from the sales of arrack and toddy. It is degrading to an ideal State like Travancore to encourage the policy of drinking. It is when we have got surplus revenue that we should think of starting temperance movement. The amount of evil that is caused on account of intoxication is unlimited. I submit that even the subversive activities in Travancore have been to a great extent due to

[Mr. A. K. Bhaskar.]

the influence of intoxicating drinks. In all humility I beg of you, sir, to take steps to remove this evil from this land. The revenue lost in abkari, can be made up by taking up salt manufacture directly under Government control. So also with regard to the minerals. We have got no economic loss by discouraging drinking habit among the people. The tapping of toddy annually destroys some crores of cocoanuts. We will be able to save the value of these cocoanuts. The price of jaggery is very high today. It is on account of the available toddy being used for the distillation of arrack. A small portion alone is left for making sugar or jaggery.

PRESIDENT: The honourable member has one minute more.

MR. A. K. BHASKAR: I will sum up by once more paying a tribute to the Financial Secretary for giving us a surplus budget.

MR. J. W. TOLSON (*Travancore Planters*): Sir, after four and a half years of the most devastating war the world has ever known, Travancore is indeed fortunate in having a balanced budget and reserves for post war reconstruction. I congratulate the Government on a programme which is extremely comprehensive but I would like this afternoon to emphasise one or two points which, in my opinion, require more attention.

Travancore has sent between 50,000 and a lakh of people for war service. These men have done an exceedingly good and fine piece of work, one that has been recognised and highly appreciated. Those men will return to Travancore. They will return as men who have done excellent service and as men who know what is happening in other parts of the world. Some of them may have travelled over a great portion of the earth. Do these reconstruction programmes go far enough or extend to all sides of the future development of the State.

I refer to a side that I feel the Travancore Government have not sufficiently taken into consideration. I refer to mixed farming and dairy farming. There is no organisation for this kind of farming. Travancore has great possibilities in this direction. The grass lands in the High Ranges and midlands are, in my opinion, of very great value and can be used for dairy farms. The scarcity of milk can be solved by that. I feel that there are huge possibilities and it is not wrong to say that Travancore could be made a dairy producing State.

PRESIDENT; Before the honourable member proceeds further I may inform the House that exactly the same matter was put before selected owners of lands. It was put to them that although this Government will not register any land in their favour, if they take up organised farming on a large scale, special facilities will be given by Government. I have stated that if non-official agencies will invest one lakh of rupees, Government are prepared to invest two lakhs. I have put it to my European friends and I have put it to my Indian friends. I have stated that on the floor of the House.

MR. J. W. TOLSON: I am referring to this matter on a co-operative basis.

PRESIDENT: The same thing has been done in regard to the formation of dairy farms on a co-operative basis also. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies was told that if co-operative Societies are formed for this purpose and if they are able to raise money they will be financed from Government resources.

MR. J. W. TOLSON: There is another matter which I would like to refer to and that is with regard to the question of town planning, not only for the big towns but also for the villages. I would like to see reconstruction committees consider what really can be done in future to have concrete roads and straightening of the existing roads. There is also the question of sanitation and drainage and water supply. I feel that greater attention should be given to these matters when the reconstruction programme is taken into consideration. I would like to see plans drawn up and made popular not only for bazaars and towns but also for villages so that we can see organised industries springing up in every part of the country. As is well known a great deal of control is being exercised in organised industry, buildings are constructed to certain dimensions and water supply made available. I feel that when the State is considering the question of post-war reconstruction, it is well worth greater attention being paid to plans not only in towns but in villages for sanitation and water supply.

With regard to food, I would like to thank the Government for the consideration and sympathy they have shown to the Planters. We have been through a very difficult year, and I am glad to say that with the help of the Government, we have come through a very difficult period quite successfully, and the prospects generally have become bright.

There is another thing which I should like to mention, and that is, with regard to the difficulty of storage.

PRESIDENT: The honourable member will kindly speak up.

MR. J. W. TOLSON: Sir, I refer to the storage of foodgrains. I am perfectly aware of your difficulty as well as that of every body in regard to this matter. The difficulty lies in the method of storing the grains. But I do think that the stocks need very careful attention in the matter of prevention of much waste and deterioration.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Sir, this is the fifth wartime budget that has been presented to this House and I welcome it most heartily. One notable peculiarity of the budget under review is that instead of framing a budget for the year 1120 according to the usual practice after realising that the substantial increase in the Revenue surplus is to a large extent due to the operation of circumstances connected directly or indirectly with the war conditions, Government, have been careful enough to present a budget containing adequate provisions for expensive programmes under the postwar reconstruction scheme on a three year plan basis.

[Mr. Puliyoor T. P. Velayudhan Pillai.]

Sir, the total revenue and expenditure for the year are estimated to be Rs. 532·14 lakhs and Rs. 428.83 lakhs respectively. Out of the anticipated surplus of Rs. 103·36 lakhs, a sum of Rs. 32·5 lakhs is proposed to be immediately utilised for postwar reconstruction works and the balance of Rs. 70·86 lakhs will be credited to the Postwar Reconstruction Fund to be drawn upon in future.

Sir, it is really a matter for sincere gratification and pride for all concerned that the total revenues for the current year have risen, as the Financial Secretary put it, to a peak figure never reached in the history of the finances of the State, and that Travancore has become third in rank among the Indian States in point of revenue. I, therefore, deem it my pleasant duty to congratulate the head of the Administration and the Financial Secretary on the lucidity and thoroughness of this well-designed budget and accept unequivocally the assurance given to us that we are in an unassailably sound financial position.

Sir, I am sure that it is a sound financial policy of Government to build up reserve funds such as the Distress Relief Fund, the Revenue Reserve Fund and the Postwar Reconstruction Fund. But I am at a loss to understand why out of the large surplus for this year no amount has been set apart as Revenue Reserve Fund which was constituted in the year 1117, more especially when there was such a contribution of Rs. 9 lakhs in the last year's budget.

It appears to me that there is some mis-apprehension in certain quarters regarding the recent flotation of loan by Government at a time there was such a favouable revenue realisation. The satisfactory explanations contained in paragraph eight of the Financial Secretary's speech and the adequate and convincing reasons given by the Dewan in his Presidential statement, will, I trust, dispel doubts from the minds of all right-thinking citizens. When we are dealing with the budget, any proposal for new taxation contained therein deserves our scrutiny. It is seen from the Financial Secretary's speech that the Government propose to levy an additional tax on Excess Profits, not for augmenting the resources but as a necessary step in furtherance of anti-inflationary measures and necessitated by the importance of achieving uniformity of policy with the Central Government and the leading Indian States.

Sir, as there is every justification both from the Administrative and economic points of view for the imposition of this kind of tax on excess profits over and above a sum of Rs. 36,000 and as the revenue realised from this sources will be earmarked for expenditure on post-war reconstruction schemes, I am, glad to lend my support to the proposal.

Some of the outstanding features of this year's budget are (i) a lump provision to implement the scheme of introducing free and compulsory primary education in the City of Trivandrum; (ii) a provision for the organiser of cottage industries and Industries Superintendent; (iii) a provision for rural development at Sachivottamapuram; (iv) a provision for urgent works in furtherance of the scheme

of postwar reconstruction; and (v) a provision for the equipment of four District Hospitals in the State and (vi) a provision for the scheme for the supply of smoked fish and the investigation into the possibilities of deep-sea fishing. There is no doubt, Sir, that these are very urgent and useful provisions and I do welcome them.

Sir, having said so much about the budget in general, I wish to make a few observations with regard to the administrative policy of the Government. As stated by my esteemed friend, Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar, I have also been repeatedly urging upon the attention of Government the indispensable necessity for separating the Department of Fisheries from the University with a view to enable the public to enjoy the benefits of possible exploitation and large-scale production of fish. It is really gratifying to note that Government have appreciated the merits of this legitimate demand and that the separation sought for is actually effected by placing the department under the full control of the Superintendent assisted by four Divisional Inspectors. Sir, this change, I am sure will be conducive to the betterment of the Department in all directions.

Sir, You may be fully aware of the fact that I have been repeatedly urging upon the attention of the Government the necessity for the abolition of the market tolls in the State. As a first step towards the achievement of this object, Government have been pleased to abolish the collection of market toll for the hand loads. It is really very hard to continue the systems of collecting market tolls for head-loads from the people who resort to the markets for selling their articles and purchasing in return other articles required for their daily life. The rich people are sending their produce to the market for sale in cart loads and I have absolutely no complaints against toll being realised for cart loads as it will not in any way affect the poor. I would, therefore, request that Government may be pleased to issue early orders for abolishing this system of market toll in respect of head-loads also, and thereby redress the long-felt grievance of the suffering public in this "land of Dharma."

Then, Sir, another point which I wish to impress on your attention is that..........

PRESIDENT: I may tell the honourable member that the abolition will take place.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Thank you Sir. There is a special knack for some of your officers to find out some means to deprive the public of the possibilities of engaging the full benefits of your generous actions.

PRESIDENT: The responsibility is entirely mine.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Then it requires immediate correction.

I wish to illustrate my point presently. As the result of repeated representations made by the public of Chengannor you have been pleased to sanction a sub-treasury there and that sub-treasury was opened last year. Sir, somehow or other remittances of any kind are

[Mr. Puliyoor T. P. Velayudhan Pillai.]

not allowed there and it is at present serving only the purpose of disbursing the salary and pension. No kind of remittances are allowed in that sub-treasury. All the local Government institutes are making their huge remittances almost every day to the sub-treasury at Thiruvalla. It is very interesting to find that even the Stationary Magistrate.........

MR. K. G KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Legal Remembrancer to Government*): Sir is it in order to discuss a particular grievance when a general discussion is taking place?

PRESIDENT: Apparently the Legal Remembrancer is not aware that the point raised by the honourable member is only symptomatic of a general evil appertaining to Government.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Exactly so, Sir, (Laughter). Our grievance is that even though Government are pleased to do certain good things for the benefit of the Public some of the officers try to find out some means to deprive the people of the benefits thus intended to confer.

PRESIDENT: So far as Chengannoor has a champion like Mr. Velayudhan Pillai the grievances of the people there will be redressed.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: We will ever be gratefull to you Sir for the generous public help.

PRESIDENT: I remember having passed orders with regard to the inauguration of the Chengannoor sub-treasury which was pleaded for by the honourable member for the last three or four years. Now the honourable member says that it has not been fully implemented. Has the honourable member brought that to the notice of the Government?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Yes Sir. I am satisfied and hope it will be made a remittance treasury as well in the immediate future. If there is any difficulty in regard to the remittance of land tax in the Chengannoor treasury for any technical reason that is no reason for not accepting other kinds of remittance. "Water, water everywhere but not a drop to drink." This is the sad predicament in which the Chengannoor public are placed at present so far as the treasury is concerned. I would therefore request that you may be pleased to issue early orders so that we may be enabled to enjoy the full benefits of the treasury which is your own creation.

Connected with the proposal for the equipment of 4 district hospitals in the State I would like to offer a few suggestions for your favourable consideration. The system of levying fees from persons having an income of over Rs. 50 per mensem for whom services are rendered, was first introduced on 1-4-1116 and the scheme has been extended to all the hospitals and dispensaries in the State with effect from 1-1-1117. Apart from the merits of that scheme, let us examine the amount of revenue realised from that source.

PRESIDENT: It is not from that point of view at all, that a fee for medicine was imposed. It was found that human nature being what it is, if well-to-do people can get medicines free of charge, then there will be a tendency on the part of the hospital authorities to attend to the well-to-do people first and the circulation of medicine amongst the poor and the deserving will be only less. I want to know whether that system has served well or not.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: It is about the system I want to say a few words.

PRESIDENT: Whether the system has served well or ill, whether it has fulfilled the intentions of Government or not, my point is whether it was not possible for the really deserving to get free medical aid in a larger measure.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Whatever that be, it is high time for Government to abolish that system. It is beset with numerous practical difficulties. The amount of revenue realised in 1118 is Rs. 1,627.

PRESIDENT: That is very creditable as it shows an increase in the good health of our officers.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Then, if everything is all right, then there is no need to.—

PRESIDENT: It is not all right. I want to know whether the really poor and deserving get more and more free medical aid than the well-to-do? Is such a thing happening?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: My only point is that the amount collected from this source is not commensurate with the value of the registers and forms maintained for the purpose.

PRESIDENT: The member may address himself to that aspect, but I want to know whether the levy of fee has served the purpose in that there was scope for the poor and the deserving to get free medical service in a larger measure.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Whatever be the merits of that I am concerned with the abolition of the system altogether.

PRESIDENT: As a matter of fact in the town of Trivandrum it was found that men getting very large amounts either by way of income or salary were getting medicines free of charge. Government came to the conclusion that it would not be equitable for people getting a certain minimum income to get free medical aid any more than people with no income and that consequently that richer people should pay for the same. If honourable members think that this is a wrong system or that the results are so inequitable that it should be discontinued, it is for the members to comment upon.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: When we work out the amount, we can see that only a sum of Rs. 4 is being collected from all the medical institutions of the State per diem. Therefore, my point is that it is high time for Government to consider this aspect of the question and abolish such a system altogether.

[Mr. Puliyoor T. P. Velayudhan Pillai.]

Then, Sir, about the General Hospital in Trivandrum. It is the premier medical institution in the State and there are several Specialists Sections also attached to that institution such as the E. N. T. Section, the X-ray Section and the Bronchoscopic Section, for all kinds of serious diseases. People from all parts of Travancore have to resort to this institution for medical aid. It is most disappointing to find that there is no adequate number of pay wards in the General Hospital. There are only 2 big rooms and 2 side rooms as pay wards in that hospital. This is absolutely inadequate to meet the requirements of respectable in-patients. It is high time that the Government should take up the question of providing adequate number of pay wards in the General Hospital and I am sure that the investment on the construction of pay wards will fetch not less than cent percent. –

PRESIDENT: Apart from that, I may inform the House that Government have taken up that question and that plans are under scrutiny by competent and expert engineers.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Then Sir, I would request you to make it possible for you to pay a visit to the only Ophthalmic hospital in the State. My submission is that. –

PRESIDENT: Why should the member presume that I have not done so? Whether my visit there has been of any use is quite a different matter.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: But I am prepared to concede that there might have been some benefit to the institutions, if you had visited that. The in-patients wards in the Ophthalmic Hospital are worse than cattle-sheds and the patients are consequently put to great difficulties and inconveniences. I submit that it requires your immediate attention from the point of view of hygienic conditions and may I trust, Sir, that these suggestions regarding pay wards in the General Hospital and in-patient wards in the Ophthalmic Hospital, will receive your immediate attention. A word about the honoraria to the members of the Legislature and I am done. Sir, I oppose that proposition.

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, on a point of order. This subject can be taken up at the time of the voting of demands for grants under General Administration.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Sir, I am really sorry for the obstruction of the Legal Remembrancer and do not know in what way I should characterise this point of order. I oppose this proposal with all the force at my command. As I may get a proper occasion for considering this question in all its details, I reserve my arguments for the future with the hope that the non-official members of this House will not fail to record their protest against a change in the present system which was in vogue ever since the inception of the legislature.

In this connection, I may be permitted to submit a word regarding the undesirable treatment accorded to the members of the legislature probably without understanding the real state of affairs. I shall illustrate my point immediately. The Village Union Act provides for the Election of Vice Chairman by the members of the Union. In spite of the salutary provision regarding the election of Vice Chairman Government have appointed as Vice Chairman a petty officer like the Co-operative Inspector.

PRESIDENT: Where is that?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: In Vadakkekara Village Union, a village union which consisted at that time 3 members of the legislature, a Co-operative Inspector was appointed as Vice-Chairman. A low paid officer like the Co-operative Inspector was appointed to act as Vice-Chairman of that Union at a time when it consisted of three members of the legislature, and that action was against the express provision of the Act. Just imagine the feelings of the unfortunate non-officials of the legislature. As soon as this was brought to my notice, I addressed Government on this matter and it is still more disappointing to find that no reply has yet been received by me during this long period of about one year. Sir, if you deem this a legitimate grievance, it may be redressed without further delay. I would also add that action may be taken against the officer responsible for bringing about this situation. May I expect a reply from the official Bench on all the points raised by me?

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Sir, the speech with which the Financial Secretary introduced the Budget proposals for the coming year can be taken as an example of the new style Budget. A few pages at the beginning about the results of the past year and the prospective revenue and expenditure of the new year and an even fewer pages at the end comparing the financial results covering the past decade were all that were devoted to what used to be the substance of the whole Budget. This procedure nowadays seems natural and hence-forward, the Budget speech is not an occasion for forensic accountancy, but an occasion, when the financial and economic health of the State as a whole can be reviewed. Sir, it was to this wider review that the greater part of the Financial Secretary's speech on Monday was directed. His remarks, supplemented by the statement of the Dewan-President, give a lucid, comprehensive and precise insight into the vital problems, which face this State immediately and in the Post-war period.

Sir, it is gratifying to note that no new and additional taxation is proposed to be imposed in the coming year except a tax on Excess Profit. This tax is in operation in the neighbouring State of Cochin for some years past. As long as this tax is temporary and is introduced to check certain war-evils and tendencies, the principle of the tax is to be welcomed.

Sir, the Financial Secretary has placed before us a vivid and clear account of the measures the Government have taken in the

[Mr. K. C. Karunakaran.]

past year and propose taking in the coming year in regard to food supply, transport, education, medicine and other matters affecting the welfare of the people.

I congratulate the Financial Secretary.

Sir, as a result of the close study of the economic fluctuations as shown by conjuncture statistics over the past centuary by very eminent statisticians as Kucznsky and Colin Clark, it has been postulated that the coming period of 15 years, from 1945 to 1960, will be characterised by :—

1. Large capital movements.
2. Full employment.
3. Great expansion of the volume of trade.
4. Outflow of labour from primary into secondary and tertiary industries at a higher rate than before, and
5. Improvement of trade in favour of Primary productions.

Sir, the 12-point programme for the Post-War Reconstruction of Travancore as outlined by you, comes within the above. It can, therefore, be reasonably hoped that the external economic tendencies will certainly help and contribute to the successful termination of the programme.

Sir, we are in a 'capital hungry' period. During this period there is bound to be an active flow of external and internal investments. Sir, this will lead to a full use of material and human resources and an absence of chronic unemployment. There will be an increase in the volume of the country's external trade due, in the first place, to the external capital movements and, secondly, to the flow of products from newly developed resources. Increasing external and internal investments will certainly be accompanied by a rise in the general level of prices. Sir, during the period of comparative freedom from foreign competition, Travancore industries will enjoy a great advantage due to geographical and administrative factors. This advantage arises from the fact that Travancore industries will have access to a large internal market covering the whole country with no customs barriers between its different parts. This advantage will, of course, be diminished if in response to sectional demands, the country is partitioned into separate and completely autonomous administrative jurisdictions. Sir, there is yet another advantage for the Travancore industries in the next few years. In consequence of the large increase in the prices of agricultural commodities and industrial products due to war-conditions, the purchasing capacity of India's internal market will become considerably increased. Conditions, therefore, appear to be particularly favourable for taking on hand the 12-point programme for the Post-War Reconstruction of Travancore which you Sir, have so ably drawn up. Sir, in the economic field certain positions are of special strategic importance. The side which holds the key will control the entire situation. In economics the key positions are the banking

system with its control over money and the supply of credit; the fuel and power industries which largely determine the costs and location of other manufacturing industries; transport; and lastly the heavy industries, which produce basic raw materials and durable capital goods.

Sir, whoever controls these key positions is master of the industrial system. If these industries and services can be brought under full or semi State control and so organised to be 'profitable to society as a whole' it will be a matter of secondary importance how other industries and services are owned and or managed.

Sir, in the field of industrial and commercial banking system there remains much to be done by the Government. Banking policy sets limit to the volume of production and employment which the industry as a whole can provide. If the banks fallow a deflationary line and insist on restricting credits in order to bring prices down, nothing can avert a major industrial depression. It does not mean that banks can bring about high production or full employment merely by creating credit; it means, sir, they can prevent production and employment by not creating it.

Sir, for supplying long term industrial credits and for the proper financing of the new secondary industries and the existing tertiary industries and the tremendous post-war trade, it is essential for the State to have a Central Bank organised on up-to-date lines.

Sir, the Electric Supply Scheme at Pallivasal is a standing example of what Government have done in regard to the supply of power. The new lines of approach the Government have now approved will, in the near future, supply Electric power to the whole State. The development of this power will, no doubt, revolutionise cottage industries in the same way as it has done in other countries. It is gratifying to see, sir, that this all powerful industry is owned and ably managed by the Government.

Sir, inland transport is in a state of unregulated competition between road and water services. Co-ordination is plainly needed for economy and public convenience and only a public authority controlling a large part of the road and water transport services can possibly bring this about. Moreover, sir, freight charges affect all industries and the facilities for transport of goods and passengers are vital factors in planning the future location of our industries and the distribution of population and therefore in the whole business of post-war planning.

Sir, not long ago, it was a widely accepted belief that this State was under certain permanent climatic disabilities as regards the establishment of large scale mechanised industries. But you, sir, have demonstrated that these climatic disabilities could be overcome by the aid of science and technology. You, sir, are directly responsible for initiating such heavy industries like Aluminium, Glass, Chemicals;

Mr. K. C. Karunakaran]

Cement and Fertilizers are on their way. Those who have visited and seen the working of the Aluminium factory at Alwaye will undoubtedly admit the permanent indebtedness of this State to you, sir, for boldly embarking upon an industry involving operations at very high temperature.

Sir, the scheme you have drawn up includes the expansion of primary and vocational education, a big public health drive comprising medical inspection of children. This aspect of the programme will certainly help to produce human material of first rate importance which will in due course play their part in the material and human development and progress of this State.

Sir, I do not propose here and now for a review of the would be results of the post-war planning and reconstruction. I will content by assuring myself that, if the scheme is put through properly and carefully, it will certainly bring about conditions in this country, which will enable its vast and growing population to reach that ideal state of affairs, where there will be chances for all, with a basic standard of living assured to all. In other words, sir, the closing period of post-war reconstruction will undoubtedly see "better houses, better food and better social amenities" and this is the goal aimed at by wise economic and political thinkers and leaders for the advancement of their country and contentment of their people.

Sir, in an anxiety and attempt to start and develop large scale mechanised industries, we should not neglect the existing industries, which looked after our economics for the last many years. The Coir industry is being run in the same old way. Sir, I raise the point here and now as to whether or not coir products would be outmoded in a world of changing values. Sir, I portray the new glittering world—I call it the Plastic age-and I compare the shining products of this age with coir mats and rugs of almost the same appearance as a decade or two ago, and whose advance has been at most at pedestrian pace. This is something worth considerable thought, although I may have exaggerated the comparisons. We cannot afford to sit still and we must avail ourselves of every atom of technological improvement that can be applied to coir. Surely, for instance, the power loom draws nearer, and who knows but that Plastics may yet play their part in the modernising and grooming of coir products. Sir, I invite the serious attention of the Research and Technological Departments of the Travancore University to this aspect of the Coir industry.

Sir, I would draw the pointed attention of the Government to an article on 'Coir' published in an authentative London journal—The statist—on the 28th November 1942. Among other matters, the journal wrote "The imperial Government has asked that the output of coir be greatly increased and a considerable amount of thought and work is being devoted to that end notably in Travancore. It can fairly be commented that it should be a general principle that where the output of commodities is being raised in response to war-time needs, steps should

be taken to ensure that at least part of the additional rate of production should find an industrial outlet in days of peace. It would therefore appear to be a practical step to take to appoint a small expert committee charged with the duty of investigating the coir position from every angle and to recommend what lines of research should be specifically encouraged with a view to maintaining an increasing consumption."

Sir, the Coir industry was very much affected from the beginning of the war. The endeavours of the Head of the Administration saved the industry from utter collapse. The history of these endeavours leading up to the introduction of Coir Control Order is well-known now. Sir, I am glad to say that the unhealthy competition which prevailed in the industry in regard to the supply of coir products for war purposes has now been wholly eliminated.

Sir, this leads me on to the various "Controls" introduced by this Government and the fate of these "Controls" in the immediate Post-war period. In this I beg to differ from my friend, Mr. Krishna Iyer. In 1919, after the last war, the British Government incited by the profit-seekers made great haste to abolish as quickly as possible the "Controls", which had been created under stress of war needs and to return to 'business as usual'. Sir, the result was seen in the criminal and disastrous booms of 1919 and 1920, when prices soared to fantastic heights and huge speculative fortunes were made. After this war, I feel confident, it will be impracticable to repeat 1919 blunder by any Government. Sir, whether the vested interests like it or not, whether the Schieber class likes it or not, whether the speculators like it or not, the "Controls" will have to be kept on and I am certain that these "Controls" could be used by a wise and paternal Government as instruments for the making of a new industrial order based on planning for public service.

Sir, the word 'planning' is used everywhere and by everyone. But before planning is applied to the case of an individual or a family or an institution or to a State, the principle on which planning has to stand is to be postulated. When I am discussing in such greater detail the Post-War Economic Reconstruction of Travancore, I must sincerely and honestly attempt to place before this honourable House the principle which should underlie this great task and which should animate everyone of us in the practical realisation of that task.

As far as Travancore and its people are concerned, I desire that all of us subscribe to the idea contained in the following extract taken from the 'Economist' dated 20th May 1944:—

"There is a widespread tendency to argue that, if only the Versailles settlement had paid proper attention to economic questions, this second war would never have occurred, and that the shortest path to a stable world order lies through a solution of economic problems. It is argued that the peace-makers, if they had wished, could have prevented the Great Depression, and that without the mass unemployment of

[Mr. K. C. Karunakaran]

the years from 1929 to 1933, there would have been no Nazi regime. All that is needed, this time, is to concentrate on the solution of a few simple economic problems and political problems will look after themselves. The view has even been expressed, from time to time, that no attempt should be made to draw up a political settlement for several years after the war, in the expectation that economic measures would, in the interim, produce such a state of contentment that political difficulties would disappear."

If we jointly and with one mind attempt to create this atmosphere in the country and help for the successful termination of the proposed programme of post-war reconstruction, I predict, sir, that we will be bringing great glory to our country and greater glory to our beloved Sovereign.

Sir, I have done.

MR. CHAZHIKKATU JOSEPH (*Minachil cum Thodupuzha*) : സർ, ഗവൺമെൻറു അതാതു കാലങ്ങളിൽ സ്വീകരിക്കുന്ന നയത്തെ പ്രയോഗത്തിലാക്കുന്നതിലേക്കു ആവശ്യമുള്ള പണം അനുവദിക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടിയാണ് ബഡ്ജറ്റു ഈ സഭയുടെ മുമ്പാകെ അവതരിപ്പിക്കുന്നതു്. അതു കൊണ്ട് ഈ ബഡ്ജറ്റിനെപ്പറ്റി പറയുന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ ഗവർമെൻറിൻെറ നയത്തെപ്പറ്റിക്കൂടി വിമർശനം ചെയ്യുന്നതിനുള്ള ഒരവകാശം മെമ്പറന്മാർക്കു ഉണ്ടെന്നു ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. അതനുസരിച്ച് ഗവർമെൻറിൽനിന്നും തുടർന്നു വന്നിട്ടുള്ളതും, നിലവിലിരിക്കുന്നതും തുടർന്നു ചെയ്യാൻ പോകുന്നതുമായ ഏതാനും ചില നയങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി വിമർശിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഒന്നാമതായി, ഗവർമെൻറിൽനിന്നും നാലുകൊല്ലക്കാലത്തേക്കായി തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കപ്പെട്ട മെമ്പറന്മാർക്കു മൂന്നു കൊല്ലക്കാലംകൂടി കാലാവധി നീട്ടിക്കൊടുത്തതിനുശേഷം ഇപ്പോഴെങ്കിലും അവരെ പിരിച്ചുവിടാമെന്നുവച്ചതിൽ ഗവർമെൻറിനെ ഞാൻ അഭിനന്ദിക്കുന്നു. അങ്ങിനെ പിരിച്ചുവിട്ടതിനുശേഷം ഇന്നത്തെ പരിതസ്ഥിതികളനുസരിച്ചു പൊതുജനാഭിപ്രായാനുസരണം വർത്തിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള മെമ്പറന്മാരായിട്ടാണ് ഞങ്ങൾ ഇപ്പോൾ ഇവിടെ വന്നിട്ടുള്ളതു്. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള മെമ്പറന്മാരുടെ സഹകരണം, രാജ്യഭരണകാര്യത്തിൽ ഉണ്ടാകണമെന്നു അങ്ങ് അങ്ങയുടെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ സൂചിപ്പിക്കയുണ്ടായി. എന്നെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളമാണെങ്കിൽ ഗവർമെൻറു ശരിയായി നടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതിനു വേണ്ട വിധത്തിൽ എൻെറ സഹകരണം ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്നു ഞാൻ വാഗ്ദാനം ചെയ്തുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

പഴയമെമ്പറന്മാർക്കു കൊടുത്തിരുന്ന വേതനത്തെ വ്യത്യസ്ഥപ്പെടുത്തി ഇപ്പോഴുള്ളവർക്കു പ്രതിമാസം ൧൫ രൂപാ ശമ്പളം വയ്ക്കുന്നതിനു ഗവർമെൻറു ആലോചിച്ചുവരുന്നതായി അറിയുന്നു.

PRESIDENT: Order, Order. There is apparently some misconception on this matter and as more than one honourable member has already spoken of it and more may, I think the matter may be placed beyond any controversy. It was put before Government by various honourable members of the House that it so happened that some honourable members of the House got not more than Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 on an average while others got Rs. 70 or Rs. 80 or Rs. 100. It was argued that there was a tremendous amount of competition for election into various committees because incidentally the attendance at these committees increased the total emoluments and allowances of certain members. It was also put to Government that a system of definite emoluments was necessary to prevent unhealthy competition during the time of election to these committees. The idea is not that those persons who are to be paid this amount will be salaried servants of the Government operating under Government mandate. It is a consolidated allowance of Rs. 900 a year which is suggested. If the honourable House thinks that it is wrong and the system of travelling and halting allowances should be maintained, Government are not going to quarrel with that position. The question is however for the consideration of the House. There are two sides to the question. On an average we spent Rs. 42,000 per year on travelling and halting allowances. Roughly, this works out at Rs. 50 to Rs. 60 for each member per month. The idea was that having regard to the greater cost of living at present and the greater cost of travelling, this amount should be increased to an amount approximating to Rs. 75 per month—If the honourable members do not want Rs. 75 per month, Government do not want to force it on them. The suggestion was put forward because a large number of public men and honourable members approached Government with this scheme which prevails in many parts of the world.

MR. CHAZHIKKATTU JOSEPH: എനിക്കു അതിനെപ്പറ്റി പറയാനുള്ളതു ൭൫ രൂപാ അലവൻസായി തരുന്നതു് മെമ്പറന്മാരുടെ സ്ഥിതിക്കു് പോരായ്മയാണെന്നാണു്.

PRESIDENT: Would the honourable member suggest any amount?

MR. CHAZHIKKATTU JOSEPH: ഡിപ്യൂട്ടി പ്രസിഡൻറിനു കൊടുക്കുന്നതിൽ പകുതിയിൽ കുറയാത്ത സംഖ്യ ഒരു മെംബർക്കു് കൊടുക്കണമെന്നാണു് എൻെറ അഭിപ്രായം. അദ്ദേഹത്തെക്കാൾ കൂടുതൽ ജോലി ഞങ്ങൾക്കു ഓരോരുത്തർക്കും ഉണ്ടു്. പറവൂർ, മീനച്ചിൽ മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും യാത്രചെയ്തു ഇവിടെ വരുന്ന ഒരാൾക്കും ഇവിടെ താമസിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു് നിയമസഭയിൽ വരുന്ന ഒരാൾക്കും തമ്മിൽ ചെലവിനു വലിയ വ്യത്യാസമുണ്ടു്. ഇവിടെ നിന്നും വരുന്നവർക്കു ൭൫ രൂപാ, ആദായവും ദൂരദേശത്തുനിന്നും കൂടുതൽ ചെലവുചെയ്തു വരുന്നവർക്കു ൭൫ രൂപാ നഷ്ടവുമായിരിക്കുന്നതാണു്. കയ്യിൽനിന്നും നഷ്ടം സഹിച്ചു് ഇവിടെ വരാൻ പലരും ഇഷ്ടപ്പെടുകയില്ല.

PRESIDENT : My memory is — and I have refreshed my memory — this House passed a resolution by a fairly big majority asking for Rs. 100 as allowance for a month and, so far as I remember, in no part of India is anything more than Rs. 120 ever paid.

MR. CHAZHIKKATTU JOSEPH : പ്രതിമാസം ൧൦൦ രൂപാ ഇതിനു മുമ്പ് ഈ സഭയിൽ പാസായിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ആ കാലത്തു അതു പാസ്സാക്കിയവരുടെ മേൽ അതു നടപ്പിൽവരുത്താതെ അതു ഞങ്ങളുടെ മേൽ ഇപ്പോൾ നടപ്പിലാക്കാമെന്നു വിചാരിച്ചതു് എന്താണെന്നു മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ നയത്തെപ്പററിയാണ് എനിക്കു ചില സംഗതികൾ പറയാനുള്ളതു്. ജപ്പാൻകാരുടെ മയ്യാമകേടുമൂലം ബർമ്മാ നഷ്ടപ്പെടുകയും തന്നിമിത്തം ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഭക്ഷണക്ഷാമം ഉണ്ടാകുകയും ചെയ്തു. ജനങ്ങൾക്കു നേരിട്ട ഭക്ഷണദാരിദ്ര്യത്തിൽനിന്നും അവരെ രക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ ബുദ്ധിപൂർവം പ്രവർത്തിക്കുകയും പുറത്തുനിന്നും ഭക്ഷണസാധനങ്ങൾ കൊണ്ടുവന്നു ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ വിതരണംചെയ്യുകയുംചെയ്തു. ഭക്ഷണദൗർല്ലഭ്യംകൊണ്ടു ഭയവിഹ്വലരായിരുന്ന ജനങ്ങൾ പട്ടിണിക്കു അധീനരായിപ്പോകാതെ അതിൽനിന്നും അവരെ രക്ഷിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ ചെയ്ത സേവനത്തെപ്പററി അദ്ദേഹത്തെ ഞാൻ അഭിനന്ദിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. എന്നാൽ പുറത്തുനിന്നും കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ള നെല്ലും അരിയും, മററു സാധനങ്ങളും പലപ്പോഴും തിന്നാൻ കൊള്ളരുതാത്തവയായിരുന്നെന്നു പറയാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ഭക്ഷ്യവിതരണം സംബന്ധിച്ചു് പറയുമ്പോൾ ചെലവിനു നെല്ലു തികയാത്തവരിൽ നിന്നും നെല്ലു വിലയ്ക്കു എടുക്കുകയും അതിനു പകരമായി അവർ അവർക്കു ഇഷ്ടമില്ലാത്ത ഭക്ഷണസാധനങ്ങൾ വിലകൊടുത്തു വാങ്ങുകയും ചെയ്യണമെന്നു വരുന്നതു തെററാണ്. അടുത്തകാലത്തു യുദ്ധാനന്തരപദ്ധതിയായി ഗവണ്മെൻറു നിർദ്ദേശിച്ചതായ നയങ്ങളിൽ ഒന്നു കായൽതീരങ്ങളിൽകൂടിയുള്ള ജലവാഹനമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടുത്തുകയെന്നതാണ്. എൻെറ ചെറുപ്പത്തിൽ ഞാൻ കോട്ടയത്തുനിന്നും കായൽവഴി പുറപ്പെട്ടു വർക്കല തുരങ്കം കടന്നു ഏഴെട്ടു ദിവസംകൊണ്ടു ഇവിടെ വന്നിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ആ പഴയ വഴി ഇപ്പോൾ പുതുക്കുന്നതിനായി പോകുന്നതുപോലെ തോന്നുന്നു. ജലവാഹനമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടുത്തിയാൽ കൃഷിക്കും വ്യവസായത്തിനും കച്ചവടത്തിനും അഭിവൃദ്ധി ഉണ്ടാകുകയും യാത്രക്കാർക്കു ചെലവു കുറയുകയും ചെയ്യും. വേറൊരു സംഗതി എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്, ഈ നിയമസഭയ്ക്കു ഉണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നതോ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കേണ്ടതോ ആയ വില, ഇന്നു ഇതിനു ഇല്ലെ

ന്നാണ് ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ നിയമസഭയെപ്പററി ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരു അവജ്ഞയാണുള്ളത്. അതിനു കാരണങ്ങളും ഇല്ലാതില്ല. ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് നിയമസഭയെപ്പററിയുള്ള ഈ ബഹുമാനക്കുറവു എനിയ്ക്കു ഈയ്യിടെ നല്ലവണ്ണം മനസ്സിലായി. തെരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പു സംബന്ധിച്ചു് വോട്ടു തരണമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞു വോട്ടറന്മാരുടെ വീട്ടിൽ ചെല്ലുമ്പോൾ "നിങ്ങൾ എന്തിനാണ് നിയമസഭയിൽ പോകുന്നതു്, നിങ്ങൾ പോയാൽ എന്താ, പോയില്ലെങ്കിൽ എന്താ, നിങ്ങൾ നിയമസഭയിൽ പറയുന്ന യാതൊന്നും ഗവൺമെൻറു അനുവദിക്കുകയില്ല." ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഒരു ധാരണയാണ് ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ കടന്നുകൂടിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഈ ധാരണ മാറണമെങ്കിൽ ജനപ്രതിനിധികളായ ഞങ്ങൾ പറയുന്ന സംഗതികൾ ഗവൺമെൻറു ശ്രദ്ധിക്കയും ആയതനുസരിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിക്കയും വേണം. ഞങ്ങൾ എന്തുതന്നെ ഇവിടെ വന്നു പറഞ്ഞാലും ഗവൺമെൻറു അവരുടെ ഇഷ്ടം പോലെ തന്നെ പ്രവർത്തിക്കും. ജനപ്രതിനിധികളായ ഞങ്ങൾ ഇവിടെ വന്നു പറയുന്ന സംഗതികൾ ഗവൺമെൻറുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ കുറച്ചുകൂടി ആദരവോടും ബഹുമാനത്തോടും കൂടി കേൾക്കുകയും ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുകയും വേണം. ഇന്നുതന്നെ, ചെലവിനു നെല്ലു തികയാത്തവരിൽ നിന്നും നെല്ലു എടുക്കണമെന്നാണോ ഗവൺമെൻറിൻെറ നയം എന്നു ഞാൻ ചോദിച്ചു. അങ്ങിനെയാണ് ഗവൺമെൻറിൻെറ നയമെന്നു ഒരു അവഹേളനഭാവത്തിൽ ഒരു മറുപടി പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. ആ മറുപടി പറഞ്ഞതു ഗവൺമെൻറു ഭാഗത്തെ ഒരു പ്രധാന ഉത്തരവാദിത്വമുള്ള സിക്രട്ടറിയാണ്. ഇപ്രകാരമുള്ള മറുപടികളും തദനുസരണമുള്ള പ്രവർത്തികളുമാണ് ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ നിയമസഭയെപ്പററിയുള്ള വിശ്വാസം ഇല്ലാതാകുന്നതു്.

PRESIDENT: I have verified. Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar's answer was that this is the policy of the Government. The fact that any officer of the Government has said that the policy of the Government is to do certain things does not mean that the policy is sacrosanct or is not liable to be canvassed or controverted on the floor of the House. There is no question of derogation of the right or authority of the honourable members of the House to fight from his point of view and to show the Government that the policy is wrong. The Government was asked about the policy and they said that this is the policy. It behoves the honourable members to say that the policy is wrong. That I take the honourable member is doing today.

MR. CHAZHIKKATTU JOSEPH: എന്നാൽ ഗവൺമെൻറിൻെറ ആ പദ്ധതി തെററാണെന്നു ഞാൻ പറയുന്നു. ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ ഈ സഭയെപ്പററി വിശ്വാസക്കുറവു് വരത്തക്കവണ്ണമുള്ള പ്രവർത്തികൾ നട

[Mr. Chazikkattu Josph.]

ക്കുന്നത്. അതു മേലാൽ ഉണ്ടാകാൻ പാടില്ല. മൂന്നു നാലു ലക്ഷം ജനങ്ങളുടെ പ്രതിനിധികളായിട്ടാണ് ഞങ്ങളിൽ ഓരോരുത്തനും ഇവിടെ വന്നിരിക്കുന്നത്. ജനങ്ങളുടെ കഷ്ടപ്പാടിനെപ്പററി ജനപ്രതിനിധികളായ ഞങ്ങൾ പറയുമ്പോൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറു അതു വകവച്ചാൽ നാളെ മുതൽ പൊതുജനങ്ങൾ മെമ്പറന്മാരെ വിശ്വസിക്കുകയും, നിയമസഭകൊണ്ടു ഉപകാരമുണ്ടെന്നു ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ ബോദ്ധ്യം വരികയും ചെയ്യും. അതുകൊണ്ടു പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ വിശ്വാസമുണ്ടാകത്തക്കവണ്ണമുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തി ഈ നിയമസഭാസാമാജികന്മാരും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു മേലദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്മാരും ചെയ്യണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ഇവിടെ ഉദ്ബോധിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. ഇനി ഒരു കാര്യം ഈ സഭയുടെ മുമ്പാകെ കൊണ്ടുവരാനുള്ളതു്, ഗവണ്മെൻറിനോടു ഒരുതവണയല്ല അനേകംതവണ തുടർച്ചയായി കൃഷിക്കുവേണ്ടി ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഭൂമി പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കണമെന്നു പറയാറുണ്ട്. അതു നടപ്പിലാക്കീട്ടില്ല എന്നുള്ളതു സംബന്ധിച്ചാണ്. ഭക്ഷണത്തിനു വിഷമമുള്ള ഈ കാലത്തിൽ, ഭക്ഷണസാധനങ്ങൾ കിട്ടാൻ വിഷമമായിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ കാലത്തിൽ, കൃഷി ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു കൂടുതൽ ഭൂമി വേണമെന്നു പറയുമ്പോൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഭൂമി പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുകയില്ല എന്നു പറയുന്നതു ശരിയല്ല. ഗവണ്മെൻറിനോടു ഭൂമി പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്ന കാര്യത്തെപ്പററി പറയുമ്പോഴെല്ലാം ഭൂമി പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുകയില്ലെന്നുള്ളതു ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ കർശനമായ നയമാണെന്നു ആവർത്തിച്ചാവർത്തിച്ചു മറുപടി പറയും. ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ഈ നയം തെററാണ്. ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഇന്നു അവലംബിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള നയം തെററാണെന്നുതന്നെ ഞാൻ പറയുന്നു.

PRESIDENT: Does the honourable member mean that those persons who have applied for registry having, for instance, 2,000 or 2,500 acres should be given greater registry or that they should wait the return of the persons on war duty and then divide the lands by lease to the largest number? What is the policy which the honourable member has in view?

MR. CHAZHIKKATU JOSEPH: കൂടുതൽ ഭൂമി ഉള്ളവർക്കു ഭൂമി പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ പറയുന്നില്ല. ഭൂമിയില്ലാത്തവർക്കും കുറച്ചു ഭൂമിമാത്രം ഉള്ളവർക്കും അഞ്ചേക്കർ ഭൂമിവീതമെങ്കിലും പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കണം. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ആകെ ൭൦ ലക്ഷം ഏക്കർ ഭൂമിയാണുള്ളതു്. ഈ ൭൦ ലക്ഷം ഏക്കർ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ൩൦ ലക്ഷം

ജനങ്ങൾക്കായുള്ളതാണ്. ഒരാളിനു ശരാശരി ൮൨ സെൻറു സ്ഥലമാണ് ഇന്നുള്ളത്. ആകെയുള്ള ൭൦ ലക്ഷം ഏക്കറിൽ വലിയഭാഗം വനമായി നീക്കിയിട്ടുകൊണ്ടു ഒരു ചെറിയ ഭാഗം മാത്രം ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കാർഷിക ഭൂമിയായി വിട്ടുകൊടുത്തിരിക്കുന്നു. ൨൫ ലക്ഷം ഏക്കർ ഭൂമിയാണു ഇന്നു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ൨൯ ലക്ഷം ഏക്കറും കാട്ടുജന്തുക്കൾക്കായി റിസർവ്വ ചെയ്തിരിക്കയാണ്. തിരുവിതാംകൂർ സർക്കാരിലേക്ക് കരം കൊടുക്കുന്ന ഒരു തിരുവിതാംകൂർ പൌരനു് ശരാശരി ൩൭ സെൻറ് സ്ഥലം കൊടുക്കുമ്പോൾ കാട്ടിൽ കിടക്കുന്ന വന്യമൃഗങ്ങൾക്കുവേണ്ടി അതിൽ കൂടുതൽ സ്ഥലം കൊടുക്കുന്നതു് എങ്ങിനെ നീതീകരിക്കാം? ഒരു കാട്ടുപന്നിക്കോ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ഒരു കുരങ്ങിനോ ഉപയോഗിക്കാൻ കിട്ടുന്നത്ര ഭൂമി ഇവിടത്തെ ഒരു പൌരന് കിട്ടുന്നില്ലെന്നുവരുന്നതു് കഷ്ടമല്ലേ? രാജഭക്തരും രാജ്യഭക്തരും രാജദ്രോഹം നിറയ്ക്കുന്ന വരുമായ രാജ്യത്തെ പൌരന്മാരിൽ ഓരോരുത്തർക്കും ൩൭ സെൻറു ഭൂമി വീതം കൊടുക്കുന്ന ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ഒരു കാട്ടാനയ്ക്കോ, ഒരു കാട്ടുപന്നിയ്ക്കോ, ഒരു കരടിയ്ക്കോ, ഒരു കുരങ്ങിനോ അഞ്ചും, പത്തും ഏക്കർ ഭൂമിവീതം വീതിച്ചു കൊടുത്തിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിൽപരം അനീതിമറെറന്താണു. അതുകൊണ്ടു് കൂടുതൽ സ്ഥലം കൃഷിക്കായി ജനങ്ങൾക്കു പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കേണ്ടതു് വളരെ അത്യാവശ്യമാണു്. സർ, ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നു. ഒരു കർഷകൻ ഈ ൩൭ സെൻറു ഭൂമിയുംവച്ചുകൊണ്ടു് അവനെന്തു ചെയ്യും? ഇവിടെ ഫെർട്ടിലൈസേഴ്സ് വ്യവസായം വളനിർമ്മാണം യുദ്ധാനന്തര പദ്ധതിയായി ഗവണ്മെൻറു തുടങ്ങുവാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നതായി പറഞ്ഞു. ഈ വളം എല്ലാം ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതു ഈ ൩൭ സെൻറിലെ ഉപയോഗത്തിനുവേണ്ടിയാണോ അതോ വളമെല്ലാമുണ്ടാക്കി വനത്തിൽ കൊണ്ടിടാനാണൊ? ഗവണ്മെൻറു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഭൂമി പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുകയും അതോടൊപ്പം വളവും മററു സഹായങ്ങളും നൽകി അവരെക്കൊണ്ടു കൃഷി നടത്തിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണ്. എങ്കിൽമാത്രമേ രാജ്യത്തെ ക്ഷാമം തീരുകയുള്ളു. ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് കൃഷി ചെയ്യുവാൻ ഭൂമി ഇല്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് മീനച്ചിൽ തൊടുപുഴ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിൽനിന്നും സമീപസ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽനിന്നുമായി ൫൦൦൦-ൽ പരം കുടുംബങ്ങൾ ഭൂമി അന്വേഷിച്ചു് മലബാറിലേക്ക് പോയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഞാൻ പ്രതിനിധീകരിക്കുന്ന ഈ രണ്ടു താലൂക്കുകളിൽ നിന്നും ഏകദേശം ൭൦൦൦, ൩൦൦൦ ആളുകൾ കൂലിയിടാനും മററുമായി സ്ഥലം അന്വേഷിച്ചു മലബാറിലേക്ക് പോയിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു ഞാൻ ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ അറിയിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. P. M. VARGHESE: ഇങ്ങനെ പോയിട്ടുള്ള ആളുകളിൽ ആരെങ്കിലും തിരിയെ വന്നിട്ടുണ്ടോ ?

MR. CHAZHIKKATTU JOSEPH: ഉണ്ട്.

MR. P. M. VARGHESE: ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അവരുടെ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ സ്ഥിതി എന്താണെന്നു പറയാമോ ?

MR. CHAZHIKKATTU JOSEPH: ഞാൻ അവരെ വീണ്ടും കാണുന്നതിനു ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടപ്പോൾ അവർ സ്ഥലംവിട്ടു മലബാറിനു പോയിരുന്നതിനാൽ കാണാൻ സാധിച്ചില്ല.

സർ, മലബാറിലേക്കു പോയിട്ടുള്ള ജനങ്ങളെപ്പററി മലബാറിൽപോയ ചിലരുമായി തിരക്കിയതിൽ അവർ കുറുമ്പ്രനാടു, കോട്ടയം, വയനാടു ഈ താലൂക്കുകളിലായി താമസിച്ചുവരുന്നതായി അറിയുന്നു. അവർ താമസിക്കുന്ന പ്രദേശങ്ങൾ, കോളയിട്ടു, പേരാവൂരു, കുററിയാടി, പേരാമ്പ്രാ, കല്ലൂത്തുവയൽ, പടത്തുകടവു, സുൽത്താൻപത്തേരി, നീലേശ്വരം, തളിപ്പറമ്പു മുതലായവയാണു. ഈ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ മീനച്ചിലും തൊടുപുഴയും സമീപപ്രദേശങ്ങളിലും നിന്നുമായി ആയിരത്തിനുമേൽ കുടുംബക്കാർ കുടിയേറിത്താമസിച്ചുവരുന്നു. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ കപ്പയിട്ടു തിന്നുന്നതിനു ഭൂമിലഭിയ്ക്കായ്കയാലാണു ഇവരിൽ അധികംപേരും നാടുവിടേണ്ടിവന്നതു.

MR. CHAZIKATTU JOSEPH: ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞു പല സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലേക്കായി അവർ പോയിട്ടുള്ളതു. ഗോൾഡ് സ്മിത്ത് പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ

> "Ill fares the land to hastening ills a prey
> Where wealth accumulates and men decay"

എന്ന അവസ്ഥയാണ് ഇപ്പോൾ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ സംഭവിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു്. കൃഷി ചെയ്യുവാൻ കൂടുതൽ സ്ഥലം കിട്ടാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാഞ്ഞിട്ടു അവർ രാജ്യംതന്നെ വെടിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. കൂടാതെ ഗവമ്മെൻറുവകയായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ പ്രവേശിച്ചു അനേക കൊല്ലങ്ങളായി സ്ഥായിയായിട്ടു ദേഹണ്ഡങ്ങൾ നിറച്ച ഭൂമി അനുഭവിച്ചുവരുന്നവരെ ഗവമ്മെൻറു കണ്ണുനീരും കയ്യുമായി വൃഥാ ഇറക്കി വിടുന്നു. സിവിൽനടപടിനിയമപ്രകാരം ഒരുവൻ ഒരു വസ്തുവിൽ ബലാൽ പ്രവേശിച്ചു ദേഹണ്ഡം നടത്തിയാലും അവൻെറ ദേഹണ്ഡവില അവനു കൊടുത്തു ഇറക്കി വിടണമെ

ന്നാണ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ആകയാൽ സർക്കാർ ഭൂമിയിൽ നിന്നും ഇറക്കി വിടുന്നവൎക്കു് ദേഹണ്ഡവില കൊടുക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നതും ഇറക്കി വിടുന്നതും ശരിയല്ല.

സർ, നെല്ലെടുപ്പു പദ്ധതിയെപ്പററിയും എനിക്കു രണ്ടു വാക്കു പറയുവാനുണ്ടു്. നെല്ലു് ഇപ്പോൾ എല്ലാവരിൽ നിന്നും എടുത്തു വരുന്നു. സ്വന്തആവശ്യത്തിനു നെല്ലു തികയാത്തവരിൽ നിന്നും ഗവമ്മെൻറു നെല്ലു വാങ്ങിക്കയും അവനു അതിനുപകരമായി അവനു തിന്നാൻ കൊള്ളരുതാത്ത സാധനങ്ങൾ കൊടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഒരുവനു ചെലവിനു 200 പറ നെല്ലു വേണമെന്നിരിക്കട്ടെ. എന്നാൽ അവനു സ്വന്ത കൃഷിയിൽ നിന്നും ൧൫൦ പറ നെല്ലുമാത്രം കിട്ടുന്നു. ഈ ൧൫൦ പറ നെല്ലിൽ നിന്നും ഗവമ്മെൻറു അവനെ നിർബന്ധിച്ചു അവനോടു ൫൦ പറ നെല്ലു വാങ്ങുന്നു. ഇപ്രകാരം ചെയ്യുന്നതു അനീതിയാണു്. രാജ്യത്തുവേണ്ടത്ര ഭക്ഷ്യധാന്യങ്ങൾ ഇല്ലാത്തതിനാൽ പുറത്തുനിന്നും വരുത്തിത്തരുന്ന സാധനങ്ങൾ എത്ര മോശമായാലും എന്തു വിലയുടെതായാലും തിന്നാം. എന്നാൽ സ്വന്തം പിതൃസ്വത്തിൽ നിന്നും കിട്ടുന്ന സ്വല്പ ഭക്ഷണസാധനം ഗവമ്മെൻറു അപഹരിച്ചു അന്യനു കൊടുക്കുന്നതു ശരിയല്ല. നെല്ലില്ലാത്തവൻെറ അടുക്കൽനിന്നും നെല്ലു് എടുക്കാൻ പാടില്ല. അവനവൻെറ സ്വന്ത ആവശ്യത്തിൽ കവിഞ്ഞു് കൂടുതൽ നെല്ലു് കിടപ്പുള്ളവരുടെ പക്കൽനിന്നുമാത്രമെ ഗവമ്മെൻറു നെല്ലെടുക്കാവൂ. അല്ലാതെ തൻെറ പക്കലുള്ള നെല്ലു് കൊടുത്തിട്ടു് പഞ്ചാബിൽ കിടക്കുന്ന മെയിസോ ബജ്രായോ ഇവൻ ഉപയോഗിച്ചുകൊള്ളണമെന്നു പറയുന്നതു ശരിയല്ലാ. സർ, റേഷൻ കാർഡു് മൂലം ഭക്ഷണസാധനങ്ങൾ വാങ്ങിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നവരിൽ നിന്നും മേലാൽ നെല്ലെടുക്കാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നു വ്യവസ്ഥ ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണു്.

സർ, എനിക്കു് ഇനി ബഡ്ജററിനെപ്പററിയാണു് രണ്ടു വാക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്.

ഇന്നത്തെ ബഡ്ജററു് വളരെ നന്നായി എന്നു പലരും പറയുന്നതുകേട്ടു. ഈ ബഡ്ജററു കണ്ടിട്ടു അതു വളരെ ഭയങ്കരമായ ഒന്നായി എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നു. സർ, അങ്ങു ആദ്യം ഭരണമാരംഭിച്ചകാലത്തു് ഇവിടത്തെ മുതലെടുപ്പു് രണ്ടരക്കോടി രൂപയാണെന്നും ഇപ്പോൾ അതു് ഏകദേശം ആറു കോടിവരെ എത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നുവെന്നും റിപ്പോർട്ടു ചെയ്തിരി

[Mr. Chazhikkattu Joseph.

ക്കുന്നതായിക്കണ്ടു. ഈ പണം എവിടെ നിന്നുണ്ടായി? ആയതു ജനങ്ങളെ ആണ്ടുതോറും ഞെരുക്കി, ഞെരുക്കി, ഞെരുക്കി, ഞെരുക്കി പിരിച്ചെടുത്ത പണമല്ലേ?

സർ, ഞാൻ അതിനെപ്പററി പറയാം. എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ കണക്കുകൾ നോക്കാം. ൧൧൧൦-ൽ ഏകദേശം ൩൦൦൦൦ തെങ്ങ് ചെത്തുന്നതിലേക്കായി എടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നതായി കാണുന്നു. ൧൧൧൮-ൽ ആകട്ടെ അതിൽ ൭൦ ശതമാനം കൂടി ൫൦൦൦൦ തെങ്ങ് ചെത്തി കള്ളു് എടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതായി റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ കാണുന്നു. ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിലുള്ള കുടി കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതാണ് എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൻെറ പോളിസി എന്ന് ഗവണ്മെൻറു പറയുന്നുണ്ടല്ലോ. എന്നാൽ ആണ്ടുതോറും ഇങ്ങനെ കൂടുതൽ തെങ്ങും, പനയും ചെത്തി ജനങ്ങളെ കള്ളു കുടിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിൻെറ ഉദ്ദേശം എന്താണെന്നറിഞ്ഞാൽ കൊള്ളാം. രാജ്യത്തു കള്ളു വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചു അതു മുഴുവൻ ജനങ്ങളെ കുടിപ്പിച്ചു അവരെ മത്തന്മാരാക്കി അവരിൽ നിന്നും പിരിച്ചെടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള പണമല്ലെ ബഡ്ജററിലെ ഏററവും വലിയ വരവിനം. കൂടാതെ തീരുവയിനത്തിലൊ, തേങ്ങാക്കു തീരുവ, ചകിരിക്കു തീരുവ, ചിരട്ടയ്ക്കു തീരുവ, കൊപ്രായ്ക്കു് തീരുവ കൊപ്രയ്ക്കകത്തെ എണ്ണയ്ക്കു തീരുവ, എണ്ണയ്ക്കകത്തെ പിണ്ണാക്കിനു തീരുവ ഇങ്ങിനെ നോക്കിയാൽ ചുക്കു, മുളകു, മഞ്ഞൾ, എന്നുവേണ്ട സകല സാധനങ്ങൾക്കും തീരുവ വച്ചും ആയതു ആണ്ടുതോറും വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചുമല്ലെ അങ്ങു ഇത്ര ഭീമമായ സംഖ്യയുണ്ടാക്കിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഇങ്ങനെ പലയിനങ്ങളിലായി ഗവണ്മെൻറു് നികുതി എടുക്കുന്നുമുണ്ടു്. ഇതിനും പുറമെ ഇപ്പോൾ പുതിയതായി എല്ലാത്തിനും ലൈസൻസ് വേണമെന്നും വന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ഏതിനും വേണം ലൈസൻസ്; തുണിക്കച്ചവടക്കാർക്കും, അരി കച്ചവടക്കാർക്കും ലൈസൻസ് വേണം.

MR. P. S NATARAJA PILLAI : Sir, the budget presented before us gives the highest figures on record for Revenue and Expenditure. Unless there is a proportionate advance on the moral and material condition of the people, these figures are illusive and unreal in essence to the people of the country. When I try to examine them in this light, I have to confess they are extremely disappointing.

During the last decade we have more than doubled our Receipts or in other words the Revenue has gone up by Rs. 298 lakhs, and we spend Rs. 201 lakhs more than in 1110. But when we examine the workings of some of the departments that cater to the primary needs

of the people, we find not progress but stagnation. There can be no question that the moral and material prosperity of a community depends on the progress of education.

In 1930, 62½ percent of the children of the school going age, 74 per cent of the boys and 50 per cent of the girls were under instruction in the elementary schools of the State. But when we come to the year 1118, for which year alone the report is available, that is, after a dozen years, we have only 59·4 per cent of the children of the school-going age in schools, a fall of 30 per cent. What does that show? Is it an advance or progress? Has the State done its duty in this fundamental matter?

Then again, according to the Administration Report for 1112, we had one school for every 1·97 square miles and for every 1320 of the population. But in 1118, with six years of mounting revenue and accelerated expenditure, we have one school for every 2·04 square miles and for every 1617 of the population.

Does this denote progress? Has the most essential service for the welfare of the people been fostered?

I will just give one more instance to prove my point.

There can be no doubt that communications play the most important part in developing the resources of a country. On that depends the material prosperity of the people. Let us see how we have progressed in this sphere.

In the year 1112 we had 5368 miles of road. In 1118, we had 5580 miles, that is, an increase of 220 miles in six years, an average increase of 36 miles per year. Of those roads in 1112, 3584 miles were main roads while in 1118, it is 3684; that is, an increase of 110 miles in six years. In 1112, we had 1025 miles of village roads, but in, 1118, it is only 997 miles, a shrinkage of 28 miles. In 1112 we had 442 miles of traces; in 1118 it is only 438 miles. In 1112 we were spending Rs. 25·5 per mile for maintenance of village roads; in 1118, it has fallen to Rs. 21. In 1112 we were spending Rs. 28·8 on Traces in 1118, it is only Rs. 22. Government have realised Rs. 142 lakhs more as revenue and were spending Rs. 236 lakhs more in 1118 than 1112 and yet this was the way in which the communications were developed in the State. Can there be more reprehensive negligence? People cry hoarse for roads and traces. The few we have are in a bad state of repairs. For want of a timely repair of culvert, miles of road remain closed for wheeled traffic for months together.

It is not want of funds that stood in the way. It is not want of scope for expansion or necessity. It is not difficulties in importing implements; for we want only a spade to work with. It is not want of an agency to execute the work. We have a costly P. W. D. in the country. Men, material and money are available. What could it be then that stood in the way? If it could be attributable to any one thing, it can only be to the want of proper appreciation of the needs and wants of the people, an inability on the part of the administration to understand the real state of affairs in the country. The toiling

[Mr. P. S. Nataraja Pillai.]

masses count in the long run and in the last reduction, their voices must and will prevail. It is not statesmanship to ignore the aspirations of the people. Without associating the real representatives of the people in the day-to-day administration of the country such patent failures of duty could not be avoided. Therefore, Sir, in administering the funds the needs and necessities of the masses and their interests must be the primary consideration and I am constrained to remark that it was lamentably absent in the past.

Then, Sir, a word more on our debt position. The Financial Secretary, in his speech introducing the budget for 1118, said that our finances were sound and that there will be no necessity to raise a loan. Then again, this time last year, he said "These resources will serve for all emergencies and our cash position is therefore extremely satisfactory and there will be no need to raise any loan in the open market during the next year." Within a few months of this statement, Government went to the open market for a loan of Rs. 3 crores. What was our position then? According to the Financial Secretary we had then "a cash balance of more than a crore and Rs. 56 lakhs in short-term deposits with Banks, besides gilt-edged securities to the value of 1½ crores of the surplus and reserve investments," thus, in all Rs. 3 crores as fluid assets.

Apart from this, another fact has also to be noted. At the beginning of 1119, we had a public debt of Rs. 191 lakhs of which Rs. 141 lakhs was classed as special. The terms of this loan, its period its rate of interest and other details are not known to the public.

PRESIDENT: Does the Honourable member keep in mind that there are Rs. 6 crores by way of grain in our possession to-day? If it is not repayable on demand, it can be put on sale in public market to-day or to-morrow and we can get the Rs. 6 crores back.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: I am not referring to that now. That may be true.

As I said the terms etc. of this loan are not known to the public. I was not able to get these details from the public records so far. In addition to this Rs. 191 lakhs we have a liability of Rs. 406 lakhs arising out of the Savings Bank deposits. Or, in other words, after deducting the 3½ per cent loan of Rs. 50 lakhs which matures only in 1956, we have a liability of Rs. 5½ crores to meet on demand. On date we have a fluid asset of only Rs. 3 crores. Of course, there may be the grains as you said.

I know that this approach to the question will be questioned on the ground that Savings Bank deposits are banking accounts and we need only such amount in cash as is necessary to carry on normal banking business. That may be true but it has a limitation in the present state of affairs. We are in an inflation period. Money is cheap. It does not fetch adequate interest. Safety is the primary concern of the investors at present. When once the dark clouds of the

war clear, as it does at present, the tide will turn and then more and more demands will be made to withdraw the deposits to invest them in more interest bearing securities. We will have to meet the liabilities on demand.

With these prospects and when the money value was low, was it wise to go in for a big loan especially when the Financial Secretary assured this House that there was no necessity for it.

The only explanation is that it is an anti-inflationary measure and it has been so argued here. But the figures quoted by the Dewan in his address do not go to show that it had any effect to check inflation in the country. If I heard correct and—subject to correction—Rs. 136 lakhs only was subscribed from Travancore. Even out of this amount Rs. 82 lakhs seems to be only book adjustment since this amount was funded with Government as special loan and Devaswom loan. Thus Rs. 54 lakhs alone was Travancore money withdrawn from private holders. How far and to what extent it will check inflation is a problem which I am not competent to judge at present. At any rate, its effect is problematical.

Apart from this, our interest charges are already very heavy. Even without charging the interest on this new loan, it is Rs. 16 lakhs. It is becoming a major charge on revenue. During the post-war period the Financial Secretary now predicts a shrinkage in revenue. There can be no doubt in the minds of those who know the country that there will be a steep fall in the revenue. The moral sense of the country and the latent sense of the Government will not allow the Abkari revenue to stand at its present level. Our revenue is bound to fall. At that time, when the value of money will have increased, we will be called upon to repay to the tune of Rs. 164 lakhs to outsiders which may, in terms of its value, then be double the amount, which we have received now. That is a dreary prospect to contemplate. Was this a wise step to take? Before rushing to the market for a loan, before committing the people to a heavy burden, sufficient thought ought to have been taken into confidence. That was not done. I doubt the wisdom of the step.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I suppose the Honourable member is aware that over and above the Rs. 15 crores loan, the Madras Government have gone in for another loan of Rs. 2 crores day before yesterday?

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: It is an anti-inflationary measure, because the British Indian public have subscribed for the whole of it. I invite the attention of the House to the serious position I have shown.

I am conscious of the view expressed here that it will be unwise, nay dangerous to be exclusive and to treat Travancore as distinct from other parts of India. That is a proposition on which we all agree. India is an indivisable unit of which Travancore is an integral part. Not only the economic interests, but the political interests as well, are inextricably bound up together. Whether through the scheme of self

[Mr. P. S. Nataraja Pillai]

determination or otherwise, an united India, with full Swaraj will and shall emerge, in spite of all invocations to obligations and duties. Travancore will then be an integral part of it with full responsible Government. That way lies our destiny and salvation. But till then let us conserve our interests.

MR. A. R. SULAIMAN SAIT (*Commerce and Industry North*): Sir, the Financial Secretary to the Government has to be congratulated upon the very excellent budget he has been able to present before this House.

The income of the State for 1120 is estimated at Rs.5 and odd crores and the expenditure at Rs. 4 crores, thereby leaving a revenue surplus of Rs. 1 and odd crore. One notable feature of the next year's budget is that it is not framed merely as a budget for the year, but some radical changes are brought about by having special regard with reference to post-war reconstruction schemes, by making sufficient provision for the adoption of a three year programme. In the history of the administration of Travancore, this is the first time that the revenue of the State has reached a peak level figure which has brought the State to the third rank among the Indian States as regards income. That is undoubtedly a remarkable achievement and I have no hesitation in saying, sir, that the result is entirely due to your kind guidance and far-seeing vision.

After going through the budget, I am glad to find sufficient allotments are made for all the nation-building departments such as Education, Medical and Public Works. In this connection, I would like to mention that the Goverment have to be congratulated upon the very bold step they have taken in introducing a system of compulsory primary education throughout the whole State. I hope that the Goverment will receive the hearty co-operation and support of the people of the country towards making the scheme a success.

Under your able guidance, the Government have also made remarkable progress towards the promotion and development of commerce and industry and I am sure that hereafter also the particular attention of the Government would be bestowed for further improvements in that direction by allowing the commercial communities more facilities and conveniences which are necessary for the improvement of their trade.

With regard to the food problem also, Sir, we have to appreciate the policy adopted by the Government in the matter of introducing a rigid system of rationing throughout the State, and of purchasing at controlled prices, excess food grains wherever available. There also the people of Travancore are deeply indebted to you sir, for having so satisfactorily solved this very important problem, a problem of their very existence and thereby saving the people of Travancore from the horrors of starvation and famine.

The debt position of the State is also satisfactory as seen from the figures given by the Financial Secretary. It is reassuring to note that the assets of the State would exceed the liabilities by about Rs. 2·84 crores. It is also encouraging to note that during this year no fresh

taxation has been proposed to be levied on the people except the imposition of the Excess Profits Tax. Here I may be allowed Sir, to make a few observations on behalf of the Commercial Community which I have the honour to represent. Of course we are thankful to the Government for not having imposed the tax so far, when we already know that the Government of India, the Provincial Governments and some Indian States have already imposed it long ago. I have no quarrel with the Government for having imposed this tax. But at the same time I have to point out that when 2 years ago the income tax rates were increased and super tax imposed the commercial community thought that this excess profit tax which is now proposed to be levied would not be imposed in Travancore. But now I find that the tax is already imposed and the Government expect to get a revenue of about 25 lakhs of rupees out of this new taxation.

The Financial Secretary in giving the reasons for the imposition of this tax has said "That the levy of this tax is in the first place a method of equalising the burden of taxation on the nation during exceptional times, such as the war and secondly prevents the concentration of wealth in the hands of few especially when many in the country have to sacrifice even their ordinary necessities of life in times of emergencies. He further said that Excess Profits Tax was levied in British India during the last war and is again being charged in British India and the United Kingdom during this war. This is not therefore a new tax." I am not going here Sir, to dispute the arguments raised by my honourable friend the Financial Secretary in justification of the imposition of this tax, but I may be permitted Sir, to state a few facts for your kind consideration. It is a well known fact that after the last great war there was a very long period of acute depression all over the country extending up to a period of ten years or even more. During those ten years of misery and grief the businessmen and the industrialists had sustained very heavy losses and it was only during the last two years and that too on account of the abnormal rise in the prices of all the raw produce of the country, consequent upon the situation created by the war that those who had heavily lost during the period of depression were able to recover from that position, and in some cases they have of course made some money. But compared with the terrible losses they had sustained the profits were insignificant. Therefore in my opinion this is not the opportune time for the imposition of the Excess Profit Tax. On the other hand I believe Sir, that the commercial community should be given some more time to enable them to attain a flourishing condition and at that time the Government would have been justified in imposing this tax and I think that any right-minded man would not have objected to that course. Secondly the persons who are going to pay the excess profit taxes are those on whom depends the development of the country. The country looks to them to develop the country with the resources and financial backing at their disposal. The imposition of this tax will not be an encouragement to them for investments. People invest money to get something in return but now the assessee will think ten times before investing money in a business,

[Mr. A. R. Sulaiman Sait]

because he will think that a major portion of his income will be taken away by the Government. The result will be that Trade and Industry will suffer. Therefore I would strongly recommend the Government to consider about the consequences which will be the outcome of this taxation and at least wait for some time to come. But if that is not possible and if the Government are anxious to have the tax imposed immediately, I may even suggest to the Government that basis of taxable income should be made at least rupees fifty thousand instead of Rs. 36,000 now proposed and the rate of the tax should also be as low as possible.

Sir, before I conclude I would like to refer to the very attractive 12 point-programme for the Post-War Reconstruction outlined by you. The whole scheme is full of benefits for the people of the State and if completed would undoubtedly bring happiness and contentment in this land. I may assure you, Sir, on behalf of the commercial community that they will always be ready to support all the schemes intended for the promotion and development of Commerce and Industry initiated by the Government. I hope the Government also under your inspiring lead and able guidance would help the commercial community in allowing them a free hand to develop their business and become more and more useful and helpful to the people and the Government.

With these few words Sir, I resume my seat.

SRIMATI T. NARAYANI AMMA (*Nominated*): At no time within recent times, has the task of framing a Governmental Budget been more difficult than at the present moment. That at such a time the Travancore Budget should have been framed in the way in which it has now been done is a matter on which those responsible therefor deserve to be heartily congratulated, and I beg to add my quota of hearty congratulations, Sir, to the learned Financial Secretary on the budget presented by him. It has been said, Sir, that a Governmental Budget is very often a jugglery with figures intended to mystify the reader. So far as the budget in question is concerned, there has been no attempt at all to mystify or mislead us. On the other hand the facts and figures connected with the financial administration of the State have been presented, and the whole financial position explained, with a lucidity which cannot but be too highly commended; and even the most uncharitably minded critic can have nothing to complain about the manner in which the budget estimates have been prepared and presented to this House. The learned Financial Secretary has taken the House fully into his confidence not only by the explanations offered and the details supplied in the budget memorandum, but also by the further elucidations given in the very instructive speech delivered by him introducing the budget.

Sir, the budget for 1120 may be said to mark a *new and notable epoch* in the financial administration of the State. The prospect of our revenues from ordinary sources reaching beyond Rs. 5 crores enabling Travancore to occupy the third position among Indian States in

respect of its finances is indeed a matter on which we have every reason to congratulate ourselves; and it is a matter for special gratification, Sir, that this prospect is rendered possible without levying new tax or enhancing the rates of any of the existing taxes. As regards the imposition of a tax on excess profits, the proposal is sure to be welcomed by all right thinking persons as a timely and necessary step in furtherance of the Government's anti-inflationary measures. The changes adopted in framing this year's programme, with special reference to the post-war reconstruction scheme also deserve warm commendation.

As regards the normal activities, it is gratifying to note that Public Works, Agriculture, Industries, Education and Medical Aid have been given the precedence which they deserve. The proposal to make primary education compulsory and the provision made therefor in the budget will give a fresh impetus to the spread of literacy in the State. The further measures envisaged in the programme for the uplift of the Backward Communities and in the solution of what has been rightly characterised as one of the most trying problems of the day, namely, the food problem, are in consonance with the sympathetic and progressive policy adopted by the Government in regard to such matters.

Referring to the anticipated increase in revenue under excise, the Financial Secretary mentions the larger consumption of country liquor by the labouring classes as one of the circumstances contributing to the increase anticipated in 1119. He refers again to the "enhanced spending powers of the labouring classes" in dealing with the increase in Excise revenue anticipated in 1120. This larger consumption of liquor by the labouring classes cannot but create some disquiet in the minds of those who have the welfare of the community at heart. In spite of the enhanced spending power of these classes, every pie spent on liquor is sure to bring about considerable misery and unhappiness in the family. The likelihood of making some saving for a rainy day will be considerably minimised by the unfortunate tendency, which we are told, is on the increase among these classes. It appears to me to be highly necessary, therefore, Sir, that every effective measure should be adopted to discourage unfortunate tendencies like the drink evil among a people who are generally in chronic want.

Coming, Sir, to the expenditure side I appreciate the increased provision made for the departments concerned with Medical aid, Public Health, Agriculture. Industries etc. I feel it my duty to point out, Sir, that there is great need for a further increase in the number of Midwives in the Medical Department. There should be a network of well staffed rural dispensaries. In fact efficient rural Medical relief and rural sanitation should receive increased attention at the hands of the departments concerned. As regards other measures of importance needed at present, general question of the improvement of the economic condition of the people, we look forward, Sir, to the comprehensive post-war reconstruction scheme which you have taken up and which under your inspiration and guidance is sure to yield gratifying results.

Travancore has problems of its own and some of the circumstances connected with the agricultural and labouring classes are peculiar and demand special attention. What is wanted here is a comprehensive

[Srimati T. Narayani Amma]

and special plan, which while solving the food problem will improve the lot of the agriculturists and give an impetus to the industries of the State. A broad and comprehensive programme of rural re-construction is also needed to raise the rural population from their present condition. All these activities are, we are glad to find, embodied in the post-war re-construction scheme to which reference has been made in the budget.

In conclusion, Sir, I congratulate the Financial Secretary once again on the budget presented by him which discloses "unassailably sound financial position of the State"—a position for which as rightly pointed out by the Financial Secretary your guidance and your vision, inspired by an enlightened and Illustrious Sovereign, is in no small measure responsible.

MR. C. K. SANKARA PILLAI: Sir, before I begin to make my remarks on the budget before the House I wish to refer to a matter which is drawing the attention of Indians and the Indian National Congress. On this occasion I wish to congratulate you and thank you for the bold stand you have taken with regard to the dismemberment of India. In the statement which you have given to the press and also in the statement which you made before this House we find sufficient satisfaction and encouragement that as the Head of the Administration of an Indian State you have taken such a bold step.

MR. K. A. MOHAMED (*Quilon* cum *Kottarakara*): Sir, I rise to a point of order. Is the honourable member in order in referring to this matter when discussing the budget?

PRESIDENT: In the general debate any question relating to the administration or the future of the Government of the State or of India as comprehending the State is in order.

MR. C. K. SANKARA PILLAI: Therefore I take this opportunity to congratulate you, Sir, as a former member of the Indian National Congress for the bold stand you have taken. As an humble admirer of Mahatma Gandhiji, when he himself has consented to an open discussion as to the feasibility or possibility of dividing India into several compartments I think I would be failing in my duty if I do not express my thanks and heartily welcome your bold stand in opposing this division of India.

Turning to the budget before the House, I note as a lay man, not an economist, that there are two important items which attract my attention. Firstly an amount has been allotted for post-war reconstruction scheme, secondly, a fund has been set apart called Revenue Reserve Fund. With regard to the general portion of the budget the statement of the Financial Secretary which reflects the policy of the Government on page 10 of the report of his speech that the amounts that are being lapsed yearly will be carried over to the budget of the next year as allotment for the particular items that were being done is sufficient encouragement.

When we come to the actual figures of the budget, I think there is no reason to be over-enthusiastic or optimistic because the Financial Secretary has himself taken the figures of 1110. Referring to the figures of 1110 he has shown that the revenue has increased gradually and that we are at the peak point at present. But I wish to bring to the notice of the House that even though the budget shows an increase of income, the purchasing value of money as it is has gone more than five times down and we are really in difficulty even though the budget is a surplus one. From page 17 of his speech the increase in figures from 1110 to 1120 can be seen. It is nearly three times. But the purchasing value of money has gone down to one-fifth and my personal opinion on the matter is that it is not a happy sign. This surplus is not sufficient for the maintenance of the country well and the present value of money will become dull immediately after the war.

The second point on which I maintain that the figures of the Budget are not quite satisfactory is that you will kindly note that the item from which you get the largest income is from Excise particularly from Abkari. According to the latest census the population of Travancore is roughly 61 lakhs Of this, half the number, 30½ lakhs, may be discarded for the purpose of my estimate as women who are supposed not to drink. Then we will have 30½ lakhs of people. Out of this we have to deduct those able bodied men who have gone for war service and the military men. Then there are a certain proportion who are disabled, old and unable to drink. Thus we will be having about 23 lakhs of people and it is these people who pay us this large amount of money by way of drinking. May I, Sir, ask you whether this is not the proper time to consider the question of giving up certain amount of the State revenue under this head so that the morality of the people may be improved? We should adopt some principle for the people of the State as a whole. In this connection I wish to point out that drinking has become an evil which it is almost impossible to eradicate by whatever measure it may be done by Government. Therefore I wish to point out that this is a source of income which does not give satisfaction to any thinking Travancorean, because it is an income illegally got from those who resort to drink.

The third point why I say that the Budget is not satisfactory is this. In the Budget there is a heading called "Miscellaneous Public Improvements". The amount that is set apart for 1120 is roughly twice the amount set apart for 1119. Even though from the figures as they are we might easily get an impression that we are prospering I wish to point out to the House that even applying the same principle it is not correct to presume like that, because the purchasing power of money has gone down. Many of the works provided by the P. W. D. have not been carried out last year because the contractors were not able to take up contracts at the rate of 18 chuckrams per day for a cooly. The average wage at present for a cooly is 1½ rupees. Even though the amount that is set apart for 1120 is twice the amount set apart for 1119 the work that could possibly be completed for nation-building purposes will be only one-fifth of the works that would have

[Mr. C. K. Sankara Pillai.]

been completed, that would possibly be completed, in 1119. For these three main reasons I submit that one need not be over-enthusiastic over the figures that are seen in the Budget.

In this connection I wish to point out one more important fact, and that is with regard to the purchase of food grains. The food materials that are being purchased by the Government when they are actually supplied to the ordinary consumer become almost useless. If complaints are sent with regard to the nature of the goods the result will be that the wholesale merchant does not get his quota from the authorities who issue the foodstuff. My friend Mr. Joseph Chazhikkattu has pointed out that those people who have got paddy just sufficient for their requirements should be allowed to keep them for their own use. I also am of that view because for at least some time they may be able to use the foodgrains which they themselves were able to produce as a result of their labour from their own lands.

With regard to the allotment for education, as my friend has already touched upon that point, the amount that is allotted in the Budget, even though it is comparatively higher than for the year 1119, the result will not be appreciable because the purchasing value of money has gone down to one-fifth of what it was in previous years. The result will be very poor.

MR. J. E. A. PEREIRA (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Sir, before I touch upon the Budget I desire to make a few remarks by way of preface. This is the first session of the third Assembly under the Reforms Act and this beginning synchronises with the period of war in which we see distinct signs of the destruction of Axis Forces. As you, Sir, have stated, the war can confidently be expected to be ended within a year and it will fall to the lot of this House to collaborate with you in carrying on the administration of the State during the post-war period. At this juncture we request you, Sir, to convey our deep sense of unswerving loyalty to His Highness the Maharaja and an assurance of unstinted co-operation for all the measures that the Government should be pleased to take for the betterment of Travancore. Secondly I desire to thank you for the wonderful manner in which you have solved the food problem. Indeed we are grateful to you for the way in which you have dealt with it. But for the stout fight that you put up with the Central Government and got what we needed, we would have been faced with half the tragedy that Bengal had experienced. I find from the "Hindu" of yesterday that the learned editor of the "Hindu" has paid a tribute which is justly due to you on this matter. Of course we are still having some restrictions in connection with the transport of foodstuffs. But these are inherent and unavoidable. As regards the arguments advanced by the learned leader of the congress that we should have rice as well as other grains at a cheaper rate, I am afraid we must face stark facts. Stark facts may be unpalatable, but they must be faced. We are producing only 40% of our requirements and we were depending on Burma for 60%,

and owing to the war this source has been cut off, and we have to buy at any price from anywhere. When circumstances are such my honourable friend says the Government should supply rice at cheaper rate. This is to ask for the bread to be buttered on both sides, especially under distressing conditions.

Sir, after five years of gigantic war the world has ever seen which has caused many dislocations in diverse directions, it is most gratifying to note that in the most important matter of finance, we are having a surplus budget, in fact a surfeit of surpluses. The actuals for 1118 bring us Rs. 103 lakhs, and a surplus of Rs. 125 lakhs is expected for 1119 and another Rs. 103 lakhs for 1120. Even taking the cash balances, the Financial Secretary says that we are going to have Rs. 250 lakhs which is much more than what is necessary to carry on the day to day transactions, so much so that he wants to invest part of the sum, *i. e.* Rs. 50 lakhs in short term investments.

Taking the debt position, we are having a surplus of Rs. 39 lakhs over our liabilities if we take productive schemes only, but if we take non-productive schemes also the surplus amounts to Rs. 2 crores and odd. There is some apprehension on the part of a few members of the State Congress about the soundness of the finances. The criterion to judge the finances is not the piling up of liquid money, but the wise spending of the accumulated revenues. That is the criterion in regard to husbandry. For instance, an investment of Rs. 10 lakhs on rubber has given an yield of Rs. 37 lakhs. Had we stinted that 10 lakhs we would not have got the return of 37 lakhs. That would be a case of "penny wise and pound foolish". The results have proved that our spending has been wise.

I am glad this surplus has been allotted in toto for the post-war reconstruction work *i. e.* for the twelve points programme which the Government have formulated. Many of the programmes envisaged are indeed appealing to the commercial community; for example, the extension of the hydro-electric power which has given such tremendous fillip to industry in recent times. The production of fertilisers and chemicals, the exploitation of the mineral wealth, the inauguration of a cement factory, the extension of road transport and lastly the improvement of fisheries are the schemes that have now been envisaged. I certainly think that we have not adequately exploited the ocean's wealth. Immense wealth is found in the depths of the sea. I am glad this is one of the schemes that have been thought of.

Sir, the Financial Secretary says that the surplus is altogether brought about in an adventitious manner. I beg to differ from him, in that I am not able to subscribe to that proposition in full; although to a good extent it is due to war conditions; but to say that it is entirely due to adventitious causes is to indulge in mock modesty and denying to ourselves the justifiable credit of having launched out industrialisation in good time. If the Government honestly feel that it is entirely due to adventitious manner, I stoutly maintain they ought to have taken 50

[Mr. J. E. A. Pereira.]

per cent. to the revenue equalisation fund. But there is no necessity, to do that as is pointed out by the learned editor of the Madras Mail since the yield from our commercial undertakings is expanding.

As regards the plea of certain members that there is no money available if the war stops suddenly tomorrow we can certainly put a brake on these schemes and spend this money on other purposes.

As regards the feasibility of raising 10 crores for financing post war reconstruction, I certainly think we can. We have already nearly 3 crores. We have the 3 crores loan, total six crores, and for the balance I agree with the Financial Secretary's expectation of getting 14 crores in next three years and expenses approximately at 10 crores.

The Financial Secretary has rightly indulged in retrospection, but I feel we require more of introspection into the future because we have arrived at a juncture when the end of the war is in sight and we are planning post war reconstruction. We have to plan out most carefully so that we may derive all the benefits we can expect. You said Travancore has come third in rank among the Indian States in point of revenue, Hyderabad and Mysore being the first and second respectively. In one way we have an advantage over these two States in that we have a long strip of sea coast-line. I am glad we are developing coastal transport. I am glad to find that the Government have appointed four sub-committees for post war reconstructions. May I plead, Sir, that some of the non officials may also be included and co-opted to the Committee? I respectfully submit that some of us possess expert knowledge which we can make use of in the joint deliberations. At least we will be enabled to accelerate the work of the Government bodies if some of us, non-officials, are co-opted. I do not mean to cast any reflection on the Government; but the delay entailed in their procedure is well known. I, therefore, plead for the inclusion of non-officials in the sub-committees.

PRESIDENT: Order, Order. The postwar reconstruction committee has now been formed only as a preliminary measure. The duty of the committee will be to formulate proposals. As soon as proposals can be put forward, the intention of the Government is to associate non-officials from scientific, commercial and industrial spheres with the committee as their opinion will be of value in future deliberations of the committee.

MR. J. E. A. PEREIRA: I am so glad to hear this and I thank you for this declaration. We can certainly be of help to the Government in formulating schemes. We have already spent about 8 lakhs in coastal transport, but I do not find any provision for the improvement of ports in the budget for the present year. Sir, at the end of the war, there may be...........

MR. S. NARAYANA AIYAR: A small provision of Rs. 30,000 has been made in the budget, Sir.

PRESIDENT: The whole question is that we cannot improve our ports without getting expert advice. We have asked the Government of India for expert advice. When an adviser is available and he starts his work of enlarging our main ports of Leepuram and Vizhinjam we can go ahead and set apart large sums of money for the improvement of ports in our postwar roconstruction scheme.

MR. S. NARAYANA AIYAR: Rs. 7 lakhs have been provided.

MR. J. E. A. PEREIRA: I had consultation with the Financial Secretary on this point. I wish this had been grouped together under the head "Post-War Reconstruction". I was unable to find it out in the budget, though with the experience of a businessman.

PRESIDENT: Government accounting and commercial accounting are slightly different.

MR. J. E. A. PEREIRA: But we can still understand it. I claim to know that. I am glad that expert advice is going to be taken on this matter of improving our ports. You, Sir, took time by forelock and launched out the proposal of Travancore Steamship Co., which we are going to make a modest beginning with schooners, but in due course we shall have a regular steamship Co. I hope the time is not far off when I visualise Travancore owned bottoms flying our national flag will be visiting the important ports of the world such as New York, San Francisco, Plymouth, Tokiyo and Melbourne. This will not only revive our maritime traditions of the past, but also will bring in additional revenue. This along with the fructification of the 12 point programme, I am sure we can reach a most prominent position not only in the princely order, but also in the whole of Indian constitution yet to come whether Federation or any other constitution.

The more we plan the future with care the better for us. I reiterate that much can be won by timely action, or much may be lost by inaction. I wish to put forward two suggestions in respect of administrative reforms. I find in some of our Departments such as Forest, Excise, Salt, Income-tax, the revenue is growing by leaps and bounds, for instance in respect of Income-tax, the revenue which was only 5 lakhs, in 1112 has risen up to 98 lakhs. I submit in view of this fact, a full time officer may be appointed for this department to deal with the matters pertaining to the department expeditiously. Similarly the income from excise department has risen to the very big figure of 171 lakhs. I wonder whether we cannot profitably bifurcate the Excise Department as we had done for the Public Works Department, some time back. I raise these points only on the ground of securing efficiency on the part of the Government and have no other motive. I would recommend these two suggestions to the serious consideration of the Government.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: How many Chief Engineers we have got at present according to the current budget?

MR. J. E. A. PEREIRA: Two, one for the Public Works, Roads etc. and the other for War Industries and some other miscellaneous. Now I would like to touch briefly on one or two other items of the budget, namely the Excise Department, the introduction of compulsory primary education, the improvement of hospitals and last, but not least the exploitation of mineral sands.

PRESIDENT: Order, Order. The House will now adjourn and meet again tomorrow at 12 noon.

The House adjourned at 6 p. m.

S. VAIDYANATHA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly